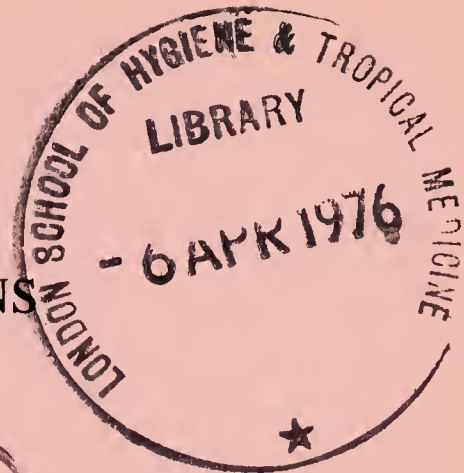


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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1971

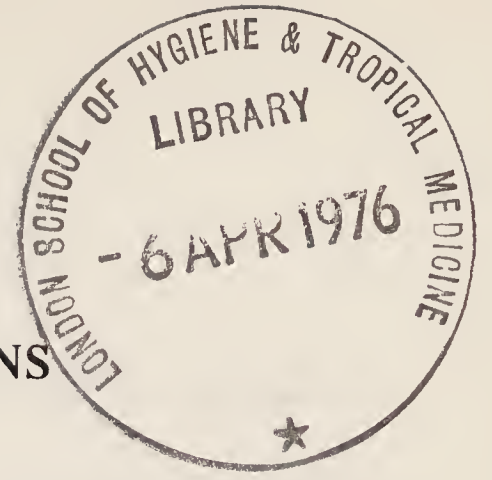
J. H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal School Medical Officer



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1971

J. H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal School Medical Officer

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the health of St. Helens for the year 1971.

At the beginning of the last Annual Report I made reference to the dearth of senior medical staff within the Department, but during 1971 there were two whole-time senior staff for the whole of the year, in addition to myself, (Dr. Chandy eventually becoming Deputy Medical Officer of Health) and as you can imagine this was very welcome indeed. Additionally, we were able to recruit a whole-time departmental medical officer. Much school and clinic work is covered by general practitioners working on a sessional basis and this closer association with them is valuable beyond the mere performance of the work, but a core of whole-time staff is absolutely essential if the Medical Officer of Health himself is to be sufficiently free to do his job effectively, and for the proper supervision and development of the various other services. Most of you will be aware that services to handicapped children have been undergoing continuous development, and there has also been a considerable expansion of work in family planning and screening for cervical cancer, which has been guided by the other medical staff. Again, many of the day-to-day connections between the medical services and other sections of the department, other Corporation departments and other organisations, would be virtually impossible to carry out effectively, without the support of other staff — some Health Departments are in just this position and we must, therefore, consider ourselves relatively fortunate. Glancing briefly at other staff in vital roles, we see that Health Visitor staffing continued its slow upward trend, but regrettably recruitment of Public Health Inspectors showed no great success.

The structure of the Annual Report itself is a matter to which I intended to give serious attention, but whilst at first it was impossible it is now impracticable since the date when the last one will be written is already known. The report should provide a continuously changing picture of all our services and, therefore, a large body of apparently trivial statistical and other detail and comment must be incorporated within it. Nevertheless, it could have been restructured in a form more consistent with the way in which the services themselves are actually provided, i.e. relating the functions to the way in which they are actually organised. This must have included consideration as to whether the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Principal School Medical Officer should have been combined — most of the staff working in the School Health Service also serve the Health Committee, and the traditional division between the one service and the other, for services to the pre-school child and the school child, are everywhere lessening. Restructuring too could have made it more possible for the various officers responsible to submit their own mini-reports. However, it has been traditional for several of our visiting consultants to provide an account of the particular service for which they are themselves responsible, (though I should perhaps remind you that consultants are naturally quite free to express any opinion — these do not necessarily coincide with my own).

In the absence of any such restructuring I have used the introduction not only to indicate major trends and changes, but also to expound at length on those subjects for which there does not seem to be appropriate provision elsewhere. Last year I wrote at considerable length on the reorganisation of Local Government and Health Services; in my next report I hope to be able to provide an account of the relationship between Atmospheric Pollution and the health of St. Helens residents. However, it would be wrong for me to pass over this without noting that in March the Chief Public Health Inspector submitted a significant report to the Committee on progress in the control of smoke emissions from industrial processes and large boiler plants, in which he was able to state that there were no longer any major coal burning plants in the Borough. Nor ought I to miss the opportunity to remind the public that the incidence of respiratory disease, lung cancer and bronchitis, in this town will be most quickly and most extensively reduced by more people giving up smoking.

Nevertheless, many changes have been made in the reports and the keen observer (are there any?), will have noted that events willy-nilly force their own modification. During 1971 the expected new Social Services Department was established and the Education of Handicapped Children Act also became effective. The background to these changes was discussed at length in my previous report, but during the year these took effect so that a goodly number of services became the responsibility of other officers. The Junior Training Centre became Ashtons Green Special School and, therefore, an Education Committee responsibility; the Day Nursery, the Adult Training Centre, the Junior Hostel, the Abbey Road Hostel, the Mental Welfare Officers and the Home Help Service were all transferred to the Social Services Department. My own tenure of responsibility for these services had been brief and I can take little credit for the standards which they had achieved. It should be recorded though that the Health Committee handed over not only a modern Rehabilitation Hostel (Abbey Road) and a modern short-stay hostel for the severely mentally handicapped, but also a capital programme which included provision for a new and enlarged Adult Training Centre with site chosen and draft plans prepared, a hostel for the adult mentally handicapped (with site available), and the new replacement Day Nursery near the town centre for which draft plans had already been prepared. Almost simultaneously with the establishment of the Social Services Department, we heard that the Department of Health and Social Security wished to bring forward approvals for the Day Nursery and the Hostel for the Adult Mentally Handicapped. I was particularly pleased about the former for you will recall my own very great interest in having our old establishment in Hall Street replaced. These changes will naturally have a corresponding effect on the content of this Report. Most of the transfers became effective early in 1971 and during the period for which they remained with the Health Department, there were no really significant changes to report. All the appropriate sections have, therefore, been eliminated from this Report and will not henceforward appear, nor will those accounts that used to be provided for us by the Welfare Department. Naturally, medical, nursing and other staff of the Health Department will continue to have some connection with many of these activities which might, therefore, receive mention in the appropriate places, e.g. medical staff and health visitors continue to visit Nurseries and Play Groups. In any event the Medical Officer of Health will still be obliged to comment on anything relevant to the town's health when he thinks it necessary to do so.

I have previously said that these changes will inevitably lead to the reorganisation of health services outside Local Government and various governmental activities towards this end continued. On June 28th the Health Committee held a special meeting to consider the Ministry's "Consultative Document", and my written report upon it. Preparations continued for our own little local health service reorganisation whereby the Authority would become directly responsible for the Home Nursing Service. However, negotiations were not completed and even though an appointment was made for a Chief Nursing Officer responsible for all our nursing services, such an appointment was not to be effective until 1972. Haste was not necessary.

The Committee will be very well aware of the attention we have tried to give to various children's handicaps, and attention is drawn to the mention in the Principal School Medical Officer's Report of the appointment of a Peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf and other activities in this field. Towards the end of the year the Health Committee agreed to the establishment at Albion Street of an experimental Special Clinic project for severely physically and mentally handicapped children, to be run somewhat on the lines of a play group with the incorporation of voluntary help from schoolgirls and others, but also with a concentration of medical, nursing and remedial professional staff. I hope that in my 1972 Report it will be possible to comment at some length, and favourably, on these new services.

Some might consider the major development in the local health services in 1971 to have been a revolutionary change in our relationship with general practitioners on the subject of Health Centres. Visionaries had long seen Health Centres as becoming the normal means of provision of general practitioners giving their own vital services in premises to be shared ideally with all health serving functions (dentists, pharmacists, chiropodists, opticians, local authority nursing and medical services). In practice for many complex reasons, they have usually been developed only with a combination of local authority medical and nursing services together with the general practitioners, but even so developments over the country as a whole have been few in number. However, a few had showed the way, brought about either by the enthusiasm of individual general practitioners or Medical Officers of Health, or by the difficulty found by practitioners in making suitable arrangements for themselves when slum clearance redevelopment had destroyed sometimes their surgeries and sometimes their whole practice. There had been a tentative plan in St. Helens for a large Health Centre combined with clinic services which would have also been the administrative centre for the Local Authority's health Services and provided as part of a general redevelopment of the Town Hall area for Local Authority administrative purposes. This development had not come about, and seemed unlikely to, and then in 1971 a changed system of remuneration for general practitioners working from Health Centres made it reasonable to take a new initiative. In August I arranged for a meeting to which were invited all those general practitioners (about 15), working in or near to the town centre who might be affected by the extensive redevelopments planned for coming years. Health Department representatives were present and the Clerk to the Executive Council. My thanks are due to the Borough Engineer, Mr. James and his Chief Planning Assistant for the considerable co-operation in providing plans to be studied and for coming along in the evening to explain what they meant. As far as possible general practitioners were given an account of how their individual practice premises would be affected by the redevelopments, and reference was made to possible sites for development. It became evident soon after this meeting that the participation of

several practices could be expected in Health Centres to be provided (with eventual Ministry approval), on sites near to King Street and to Chorley Street. All general practitioners were circulated with information on events and possibilities for development elsewhere, but ironically enough the response wrecked our plans for the provision of a badly needed new clinic at Thatto Heath. In practice the Ministry would not give approval to the provision of a new clinic premises unless it was clear that the participation of general practitioners in a Health Centre in that location could not be expected. Although this had, in fact, been the case when the plans were first produced, the changed situation by the end of the year meant that this was no longer the case and it was back to the drawing board! However, although this will result in a delay in provision of the new clinic premises, the fact that a new Health Centre can be expected instead is to be welcomed. By the end of the year, therefore, we were in a position to seriously consider the planning of three Health Centres in the town.

There are many other points of interest to which I could refer, but for the most part they will be mentioned in the relevant sections of the body of the Report. However, since there is no more appropriate place to mention it, I would like to record the fuss that was created locally when the staff of the "Reporter" brought to my attention an imported dummy-rattle which I held to be unsafe. Locally it was removed from sale, at my request, and my staff, particularly Health Visitors, were active in getting mothers to destroy ones that had already been purchased. It was obvious that colleagues elsewhere were not unanimously in agreement with my views about this device, but they were proved to be tragically correct when a year later a Birmingham child choked to death on one. Equally tragically the problem returned close to home again when a Haydock child choked to death on a British made dummy-rattle of a similar construction. One realises full well that not all hazards can be eliminated from life, indeed even if possible it might be undesirable, but the acceptance of some risks seems completely pointless and without virtue, and I protested from the beginning that I saw no reason why any dummy should need to be other than in one whole unbreakable, unswallowable, non-inhalable piece, and I am very pleased to be able to say that a Committee is now looking into the possibility of formulating a new British standard for these devices. Let me add that although violently opposed to dummy-rattles constructed by the assemblage of distinct parts, I am not inveighing against the use of dummies. True that they are over-used and wrongly used, but I do believe that in some instances they are useful to both mother and child and should not be condemned out of hand.

Last, but certainly not least, I must make comment on the matter of congenital abnormality as mentioned in my 1970 Report. The infant mortality rate for 1971 did not maintain the high levels achieved in the previous year, and for that we are thankful. However, we continued to have a relatively high incidence of congenital abnormality and particularly of disorders of the central nervous system of the type giving rise to spina bifida, hydrocephaly and anencephaly; further comment appears at the end of the section on Infant Mortality.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. E. BAINES.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1971/72

Chairman:

ALDERMAN J. F. McDONNELL

Deputy-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. ANDREWS

The Right Worshipful the Mayor

COUNCILLOR C. MARTIN, J.P.

Alderman W. Burrows, O.B.E., J.P.

Alderman T. Hignett

Alderman A. Luther, J.P.

Councillor D. Fogg, J.P.

Councillor J. Greenall

Councillor E. Kerr

Councillor M. McNamara

Councillor J. Tickle

Councillor T. Wilcock

Councillor W. H. Williams

Co-opted Members:

Dr. D. R. Holden (nominated by the Local Medical Committee)

Mr. W. K. Barrow (nominated by the St. Helens Executive Council)

Mrs. E. M. L. Else, M.B.E., J.P. (nominated by St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:

JULIAN H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

George Chandy, B.A., L.C.P.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.T.M.H., D.P.H. (from 1/3/71)

Senior Medical Officer: (General)

George Chandy, B.A., L.C.P.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.T.M.H., D.P.H. (ceased 28/2/71)

Senior Medical Officer: (Maternal and Child Welfare)

Margaret M. Walker, M.B., Ch.B.

Departmental Medical Officer:

Patricia J. Tunstall, M.B., Ch.B., D. of Obst. & R.C.O.G. (from 1/6/71)

Dental Officers:

James P. H. Donovan, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Principal School Dental Officer)

Annie Patricia Farrell, B.D.S., (School Dental Officer)

I. Lynton Jones, B.D.S., (School Dental Officer-sessional)

Public Health Inspectors:

Nathaniel Birch, *Chief Public Health Inspector*

James R. R. Norris, *Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector*

Fred Platt, *Specialist Inspector*

Thomas Dean, *Specialist Inspector*

Norman Smith, *Specialist Inspector*

John B. Douglas, *Specialist Inspector*

John McConnell, *Specialist Inspector*

Leslie N. Biddulph, *Specialist Inspector*

Robert C. Woods, *Public Health Inspector* (ceased 31/10/71)

William H. Jackson, *Public Health Inspector*

Eric Sawyer, *Public Health Inspector*

Roger Robson, *Public Health Inspector* (ceased 11/7/71)

James Sandford, *Public Health Inspector*

Philip L. Gavin, *Public Health Inspector* (ceased 21/11/71)

David McLoughlin, *Public Health Inspector*

John Cowburn, *Public Health Inspector*

Gary Senior, *Public Health Inspector* (from 21/6/71)

James Keith Webster, *Public Health Inspector* (from 1/9/71)

STAFF - continued

Health Visitors and School Health Visitors:

Superintendent: Jennie Twist

Deputy Superintendent: Margaret Cunliffe

Lilian S. Boardman Emily E. Cameron Teresa J. Howard Constance M. Pennington Margaret P. Heffernan Barbara Middlehurst (<i>part-time</i>) Dylis M. Ashurst Ruth E. Dean (from 1/9/71) Marion E. Barnes (from 20/9/71) Margaret M. Callaghan (from 10/7/71)	Jean Leahy B. P. Roe (<i>Specialist</i>) E. V. McDonald (<i>part-time</i>) R. E. Jones (ceased 31/8/71) M. Fairclough (<i>part-time</i>) (ceased 30/11/71) Jean Fairclough Marjorie Forest Elsie Burrows Shiela J. Pearson (from 13/9/71)
Pauline M. Coughlin (from 13/9/71)	

Student Health Visitors:

Lynda A. Brent (from 20/9/71)
Kathleen M. Marsh (from 1/7/71)

Midwives:

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

Audrey I. Robinson.

Margaret Boulton Ethel M. Burrows Eileen Evans Kathleen O'Hara Sheila P. Caine Bridget M. Hartley Olive M. Hardman Mary B. Crook	Dorothy B. Latham Elsie A. Parr Barbara Gilchrist Jessie Turner Mary T. Bromilow Maureen Boyle Hilda Williams Constance Ada Flood (<i>part-time</i>) (from 1/3/71)
---	--

Chief Administrative Assistant: J. J. Spencer, D.P.A.

Welfare Officer (Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care):

Mrs. Dorothy Lawless

Tuberculosis Health Visitor (Part-Time): Mrs. Bridget Jackman

STAFF - continued*Clerk/Dispenser:*

Charles Watt (also part-time Welfare Officer, Special Treatment Centre)

Ambulance Service:

G. M. Norman (Ambulance Superintendent)

The following give consultant services to the authority:

Area Chest Physician:

J. B. H. MacArthur, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.E.

Consultant Psychiatric Adviser:

John M.A.C. Stewart, M.B., CH.B.

Public Analyst and Agricultural Analyst:

J. G. Sherratt, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

I—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1971

Area (acres)	8,865
Population (estimated, mid-year 1971).	104,050
Rateable Value	£4,146,739
Product of a penny rate	16,210

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1971

	M	F	Total
Live Births — Legitimate	959	942	1,901
Illegitimate	79	75	154
Totals	1,038	1,017	2,055
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			19.8
Still-Births — M. 16, F. 21 — Total 37			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			17.7
Total live and still births — Live			2,055
Still births			37
			2,092

Illegitimate live births	: 154
Percentage of total live births	: 7.5%
Deaths — M. 712, F. 619 — Total 1,331	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	12.8
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	M F Total
Legitimate	22 24 46
Illegitimate	3 1 4
Totals	25 25 50

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:	
All infants per 1,000 live births	24.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	26.0
Neo-Natal Deaths (i.e. deaths of infants under 4 weeks)	
Deaths — M. 16, F. 14 — Total 30	
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)	14.6
Early Neo-Natal Deaths (i.e. deaths of infants under one week)	
Deaths — M. 13, F. 13 — Total 26	
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)	12.6
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	30.1
Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Deaths from Measles	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	—
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)	3

Table V.S.1 gives a summary of the vital statistics for the past 50 years.

Table V.S.1
Statistics for St. Helens

YEAR	Population	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Deaths From					
					Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diarrhoea ††	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria
1921	104,900	29.1	12.6	103	7	5	0	62	24	5
1922	106,400	26.4	13.4	115	60	4	2	28	3	5
1923	107,100	24.4	11.9	91	0	4	1	24	10	8
1924	108,700	24.1	12.0	103	29	1	2	36	11	4
1925	109,600	23.9	12.0	100	17	7	3	35	33	6
1926	110,000	23.2	12.0	102	27	1	0	43	4	6
1927	113,100	20.8	11.4	88	60	2	0	26	5	7
1928	110,500	21.8	12.0	98	15	5	1	29	21	10
1929	109,200	20.7	14.6	114	49	6	1	23	13	11
1930	109,200	21.5	11.4	80	7	2	0	4	8	4
1931	108,300	20.1	12.5	88	30	0	0	21	0	7
1932	107,600	20.1	11.4	89	1	1	0	26	4	0
1933	107,600	18.0	14.0	116	12	2	3	18	52	8
1934	*108,240	19.1	10.6	65	10	2	1	19	1	18
1935	108,100	18.7	12.2	94	14	2	1	21	15	17
1936	108,000	18.3	12.1	56	7	4	0	13	3	26
1937	107,400	18.6	12.1	88	3	2	0	12	7	15
1938	107,200	18.2	11.4	70	9	3	0	16	6	14
1939	106,600	17.3	11.6	79	1	3	0	18	4	23
1940†	103,300	18.0	13.4	78	10	0	0	8	5	19
1941†	102,750	18.6	11.4	71	2	1	1	13	15	13
1942†	101,500	17.7	10.6	65	6	0	1	13	1	11
1943†	99,410	19.8	13.0	72	0	1	0	16	4	6
1944†	98,410	20.5	11.3	57	4	0	0	21	2	1
1945†	99,150	20.3	11.3	60	0	0	0	17	0	0
1946†	104,740	22.2	11.0	60	2	0	0	26	3	2
1947†	105,790	25.2	12.7	70	10	0	0	44	1	0
1948†	110,100	21.3	10.2	61	0	0	0	14	1	1
1949	112,100	17.9	10.7	41	0	0	0	10	2	1
1950	112,500	17.9	10.1	39	0	0	0	21	2	0
1951	109,400	16.9	13.3	38	1	0	0	14	0	0
1952	109,100	17.8	10.4	38	0	0	0	11	0	0
1953	108,200	17.5	10.6	44	1	0	0	9	1	0
1954	*111,700	17.0	10.9	41	0	0	0	5	0	0
1955	111,900	16.0	11.0	33	0	0	0	3	0	0
1956	110,900	16.8	10.7	27	0	0	0	9	0	0
1957	110,900	17.2	10.7	31	0	0	0	8	0	0
1958	110,600	16.9	11.4	36	2	0	0	8	0	0
1959	110,700	17.1	10.8	24	1	0	0	4	0	0
1960	109,610	17.5	11.5	39	0	0	0	6	0	0
1961	108,480	17.6	12.7	28	0	0	0	6	0	0
1962	108,260	18.3	11.8	22	0	0	0	5	0	0
1963	107,480	17.7	12.4	27	0	0	0	6	0	0
1964	105,310	17.0	10.3	21	0	0	0	5	0	0
1965	104,440	17.6	12.2	19	0	0	0	6	0	0
1966	103,780	17.1	12.9	26	0	0	0	3	0	0
1967	103,320	16.9	12.8	24	0	0	0	1	0	0
1968	102,470	19.0	12.8	26	3	0	0	2	0	0
1969	102,770	17.7	13.7	19	0	0	0	2	0	0
1970	102,900	18.8	12.9	28	1	0	0	2	0	0
1971	104,050	19.8	12.8	24	0	0	0	3	0	0

† Estimated civil population.
* Borough extended.
†† Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea from 1950 inclusive.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1971 was 104,050 compared with 102,900 for mid-year 1970. During the year the natural increase in population (i.e. excess of births over deaths) was 724.

The population shows a further rise of 1,150, no doubt influenced by immigration to new properties from Liverpool and surrounding areas.

In April, 1971 the decennial Census took place.

Births

The number of live births registered during 1971 and attributable to St. Helens was 2,055, giving a birth rate of 19.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor was 1.00 thus for national comparison the birth rate remains at 19.8. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1971 was 16.0.

There were 1,038 male births and 1,017 female births, an excess of males over females being usual.

The total births again increased, and again this was assumed to be attributable to the many young families who have moved into the town from the Liverpool area. However, it should be noted that the statistics quoted are those provided for us by the Registrar General, and with which we do not entirely agree. Our own carefully collated statistics indicate that there were actually over 70 fewer births truly attributable to St. Helens, and it is suspected that errors in the transfer procedure have taken place, particularly because of failure by some patients to notify changes of address when they move out of town.

The illegitimacy rate turned upward again, but remained less than the national average and less than the 1969 figure.

Deaths

During 1971 there were 1,331 deaths from all causes (712 males and 619 females), giving a crude death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.9 in 1970. The adjusted death rate for the year (for national comparison) after applying the area comparability factor of 1.21 was 15.5 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1971 was 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Table V.S.4 shows that of these deaths, 273 were due to cancer (excluding leukaemia) and 634 to diseases of the heart and circulatory system. These two causes, therefore, accounted for 907 of a total of 1,331 deaths, i.e. approximately 69%. There were 3 deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) during the year which was three less than the previous year.

The infant mortality rate was 24.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with 27.9 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate for the year 1971 was 0.0 per 1,000 live and still births.

Further reference to the infant and maternal mortality death rates is made in the appropriate sections of this Report.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis was the cause of 0.23% of all deaths that occurred during 1971. The corresponding percentage in 1970 was 0.45%. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table V.S.4. Further reference is made in the special section on tuberculosis but it is encouraging to be able to say that this is the lowest number of deaths from tuberculosis ever recorded in the town.

Malignant Diseases

The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows:

Table V.S.2

Age Groups		1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
0-1	. . . . .	—	—	—	—	—1
1-	. . . . .	1	—	—	—	—
5-	. . . . .	—	—	—	—	—
15-	. . . . .	2	1	—	1	—
25-	. . . . .	1	—	1	4	1
35-	. . . . .	10	5	4	5	6
45-	. . . . .	35	21	17	28	29
55-	. . . . .	66	73	54	71	88
65-	. . . . .	75	99	72	94	98
75-	. . . . .	52	58	48	49	50
Total		242	257	196	252	273
Percentage of total deaths		18.3	19.1	13.9	19.0	20.0
Death rate per 1,000 of population		2.3	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.6

The following table V.S.3, gives particulars of deaths due to specific malignancies during the last five years:

Table V.S.3

Cause	1967		1968		1969		1970		1971			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Cancer:												
Stomach	.	.	27	17	22	23	24	24	17	15	24	16
Lung	.	.	55	5	67	10	64	7	66	9	80	9
Other	.	.	69	69	58	77	32	45	75	70	62	82
Total	.	.	151	91	147	110	120	76	158	94	166	107
			242		257		196		252		273	

The incidence of lung cancer continued its upward trend and can only be expected to turn downward to any marked extent when there will be a significant change in the smoking habits of the population.

Table V.S.4

Causes of, and ages at, death during 1971

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75+	
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	13	4	—
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	2	6	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	4	—
	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	3	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	M	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	24	29	15	—
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	2	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	6	3	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	2	—

Table V.S.4 (continued)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	75+
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	
Leukaemia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	13	10	5	
	F	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	16	3	
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Diabetes Mellitus	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	2	
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Anaemias	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Other Diseases of Blood, Etc.*	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Mental Disorders	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Multiple Sclerosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	
Active Rheumatic Fever	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	5	

Table V.S.4 (continued)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75+
Hypertensive Disease	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	6	3	
	F	17	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	9	
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	169	—	—	—	1	5	23	37	61	42		
	F	122	—	—	—	—	1	7	9	34	71		
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	29	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	12	12		
	F	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	32		
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	73	—	—	—	1	1	3	11	24	33		
	F	104	—	—	—	1	1	6	11	29	56		
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	6		
	F	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	26		
Influenza	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1		
Pneumonia	M	57	1	4	1	—	—	—	2	18	30		
	F	57	1	4	2	1	—	—	3	6	39		
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	54	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	19	23		
	F	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	9		
Asthma	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	9		
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5		
Peptic Ulcer	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3		
	F	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1		
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		

Table V.S.4 (continued)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	75+
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	M	7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	9	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	M	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	12	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	2	1	2	—
	F	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	—

Table V.S.4 (continued)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75+	
All Other Accidents	M	13	—	1	1	1	2	3	—	2	2	1	2	
	F	12	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	7	
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	1	
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	—	
All Other External Causes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	712	16	9	1	2	6	10	17	60	140	237	214	
	F	619	14	11	3	1	3	4	8	37	81	151	306	

II—METEOROLOGY

Rainfall

At Eccleston Hill Waterworks, 29.08 inches were recorded compared with 35.26 in the previous year. Due to vandal damage to the meteorological instruments, the total rainfall at Victoria Park could not be measured for the full year. The total rainfall for 1970 was 32.62 inches.

Sunshine

Due to vandal damage, the sunshine records for the year were incomplete.

Temperature

Temperatures of 70°F and over were recorded on 41 days during the year. The highest temperature recorded was 83.8°F on the 9th July and the lowest was 26.0°F on the 11th December.

Wind Pressure

No adequate records were available due to a damaged instrument.

The following Table M.1 shows the maximum and minimum temperature recorded in each month and the distribution of sunshine and rainfall throughout the year.

Table M.1

Month	Maximum temp. recorded in shade	Minimum temp. recorded in shade	Sunshine	No. of sunless days	Rainfall	No.of days on which rain fell
1971	°F	°F	hrs.		ins.	
January	58.6	26.3	no records available	no records available	2.05	12
February	53.2	27.2			1.40	9
March	53.7	28.6			not known	not known
April	62.6	32.8				
May	67.1	35.9				
June	69.3	42.6				
July	83.8	43.4				
August	75.8	47.3			0.76	7
September	75.8	45.7				
October	70.3	35.6			4.16	13
November	63.6	27.1			3.43	14
December	57.2	26.0			1.03	10

III—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles infections do not now approach the numbers recorded in the pre-vaccination era but substantial numbers continue to arise. Difficulties with vaccine supply were still being experienced during the year but the prime cause of a low vaccination rate is a low uptake of the facility.

Thankfully, infective hepatitis fell to a very low level compared with recent years and one would not now expect such high numbers as we had in 1969 for some time to come. I have previously referred to the establishment of the procedure by which cases are notified to the Regional Blood Transfusion Service to ensure that infected persons will not subsequently be accepted as blood donors.

Table I.D.1

Notification of Infectious Diseases received
during the undermentioned years

Disease	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	103	45	179	249	123	74	221	163	116	110
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	500	1692	1140	888	699	484	1575	108	837	474
Whooping Cough	16	149	33	42	81	39	73	5	59	29
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	39	58	2	17	19	29	—	29	—	2
Erysipelas	4	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	2	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infections	11	3	1	1	1	—	2	4	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	416	94	19
Food Poisoning	64	12	—	3	—	14	—	9	—	3

Table I.D.2
Year 1971

Disease	Notifications Received	Cases known to be admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	110	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	474	—	—
Whooping Cough.	29	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	19	—	—

Table I.D.3
Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified
Year 1971

Disease	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	110	2	3	6	12	44	35	8	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	474	32	53	90	55	47	186	11	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	29	1	3	3	4	5	13	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	19	—	—	—	3	—	6	5	2	2	—	—

Disinfection and Disinfestation

By arrangements with the Liverpool Hospital Board the use of facilities for disinfection of personal articles of patients is retained at the St. Helens Peasley Cross Hospital. Facilities are also retained at the Hospital in the Cleansing Block for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminous persons.

Laboratory Work

The following Table I.D.4, shows the number of specimens received by the Health Department for distribution to various laboratories during the year.

Table I.D.4

Specimens	Number Received	Results	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria	24	—	24
Blood for Rh Factor	9	7	2
Gastro-Enteritis, Dysentery and Food Poisoning	174	42	132
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	2	1	1
Total	209	50	159

IV—IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation

In 1971 the Local Authority's Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation of the child population was continued as previously. Table I.V.1, below, indicates the number of children in different age groups who received primary immunisation and reinforcing injections in 1971.

Table I.V.1

Number of children immunised against Diphtheria during 1971

Born:	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964- 1967	Under age 16	Total
Primary Immunisations							
Local Authority Medical Officers	4	694	221	28	81	3	1031
Private Practitioners	24	227	45	10	9	2	317
Total	28	921	266	38	90	5	1348
Reinforcing Injections							
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	6	33	379	3	421
Private Practitioners	—	—	2	4	57	20	83
Total	—	—	8	37	436	23	504

The following shows the record of primary immunisations carried out since 1966:

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1642	1692	1649	783	1134	1348

The figure of 1348 represents all children up to 15 years of age. Of the children born in 1970/71 a total of only 949 children born in these two years were immunised during the year. As a threshold of immunity this is still much too low, when it is considered that there are over 1,900 births per year in the County Borough.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

Table I.V.2.

Number of children immunised against Whooping Cough during 1971.

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964- 1967	Under age 16	Total
Primary Immunisations combined with other antigens							
Local Authority Medical Officers	4	692	221	27	17	1	962
Private Practitioners	24	227	45	10	9	2	317
Total	28	919	266	37	26	3	1,279
Reinforcing Injections combined with other antigens							
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	6	33	49	2	90
Private Practitioners	—	—	2	4	57	20	83
Total	—	—	8	37	106	22	173

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year the Department of Health and Social Security advised local authorities to cease routine smallpox vaccination of children. The reasons for this advice might be summarised as (a) the global decrease in smallpox, (b) the morbidity and mortality arising from the vaccination and (c) in the changed situation, modern methods of control and contact tracing were considered to be readily capable of dealing with outbreaks. In fact, not all doctors or medical officers of health agree with this policy and I myself feel that it was prematurely adopted. It must be borne in mind that many persons not vaccinated as children will nevertheless have to undergo the procedure later because of entering the armed forces or certain professions (Medicine, nursing and others) or because vaccination may be from time to time required for travellers. However, it appeared to me that we would be in an intolerable position if, as a consequence of recommending vaccination against Ministry advice, some local child suffered a serious complication or died. The authority, therefore, adheres to the Government policy but vaccination is still available at the request of the parent.

Table I.V.3
Number of Vaccinations against Smallpox during 1971

	At Ages:	0-2 m'ths	3-5 m'ths	6-8 m'ths	9-12 m'ths	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	16 & over	Total
Vaccinations										
Local Authority										
Medical Officers		—	1	—	—	154	61	4	19	239
General Practitioners		—	1	1	1	99	35	25	92	254
Total:		—	2	1	1	253	96	29	111	493
Re-Vaccinations										
Local Authority										
Medical Officers		—	—	—	—	1	1	50	51	103
General Practitioners		—	—	—	—	—	3	16	199	219
Total:		—	—	—	—	1	4	66	250	322

Measles Vaccination, 1971

Table I.V.4

Year of Birth:	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964-67	Under 16	Total
Local Authority	—	182	162	50	37	1	432
General Practitioners	3	103	57	17	16	—	196
Total:	3	285	219	67	53	1	628

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During the year, 1346 persons completed a full primary course of three oral doses, of poliomyelitis vaccine. In addition, 2318 persons were given reinforcing doses.

With regard to the 1-2 year age groups, 939 children in this group received three oral doses of vaccine during the year.

As with diphtheria immunisation, this figure is still too low, and it is again emphasised that the only way of preventing serious outbreaks of these diseases is for parents to have all children immused and vaccinated.

German Measles (Rubella) vaccination, 1971

Rubella is a common infectious disease which usually gives rise to very little disability but, as is now common knowledge, the infection in women who are in the early stages of pregnancy can lead to abortion or to handicapping conditions (deafness, cataracts, mental retardation, congenital heart defect) in a proportion of surviving children. It became national policy to offer vaccination to school girls at age 13 thereby, it is hoped, allowing the majority of the population to acquire a solid natural immunity and yet giving protection against foetal damage in those women who had not gained a natural immunity. It would be technically feasible to determine which girls had previously undergone a natural infection but administratively this would have proved extremely difficult to cope with and since vaccination of the already immune is harmless, the vaccination is offered without discrimination to all girls of the appropriate age.

Vaccinations commenced in December 1970 and this was the first full year in which the programme was pursued. It will be seen that most of the work is, in fact, being done by local authority staff in the schools.

Year of Birth	1957
Local Authority	472
General Practitioners	4
Total	476

Table I.V.5

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1971

3 Oral Doses

Year of Birth	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964-67	Under 16 years	Others	Total
Local Authority	4	701	225	28	81	4	1	1044
General Practitioners	25	209	48	11	7	1	1	302
Total:	29	910	273	39	88	5	2	1346

Reinforcing Doses

Year of Birth	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964-67	Under 16 years	Others	Total
Local Authority	—	—	6	34	360	1846	2	2248
General Practitioners	—	1	2	—	54	13	—	70
Total:	—	1	8	34	414	1859	2	2318

V-AMBULANCE SERVICE

Table A.S.1 gives the details of the work carried out by the Ambulance Service in St. Helens during 1971.

TABLE A.1 CALLS ATTENDED BY AMBULANCE SERVICE DURING 1971

1971	Accidents			Emergency		General Service Removals				
	Street	Works	Home	Sudden Illness	Maternity	Hospital Admissions	Hospital Discharges	Hospital Transfers	Out-Patients	Total
Month										
January	85	8	45	134	85	209	106	38	3075	3785
February	77	6	24	110	74	164	75	51	3048	3629
March	82	11	36	107	75	228	100	40	3511	4190
April	95	15	35	117	59	192	115	48	3040	3716
May	90	20	46	102	65	215	119	26	2817	3500
June	132	10	35	108	65	187	85	59	2682	3363
July	114	11	35	124	61	174	115	55	2678	3367
August	92	17	41	141	54	200	74	51	2291	2961
September	69	17	32	118	67	199	103	53	2520	3178
October	89	12	50	137	65	195	97	59	2545	3249
November	98	9	30	107	88	203	114	40	2886	3575
December	99	7	40	150	54	234	88	42	2588	3302
Total:	1122	143	449	1455	812	2400	1191	562	33681	41815

TABLE A.2 AMBULANCE SERVICE MILEAGE DURING 1971

1971	2/4 STRETCHER AMBULANCE	DUAL PURPOSE AMBULANCES													
		EDJ 411	GDJ 111	RDJ 653F	NDJ 999	RDJ 766	UDJ 28	WDJ 704	GDJ 290C	WDJ 873G	LDJ 443E	CDJ 257H	HDJ 94J	HDJ 95J	TOTAL
January	228	661	1171	863	1357	1437	1491	1506	1648	569	1636				11967
February	616	798	1371	486	1618	1377	983	1486	1442	612	1824				12013
March	600	957	1257	1228	1560	1606		1548	538	1874	2329				13497
April	303	839	1133	737	688	1260	97	1627	1860	1461	1721				11726
May	380	1332	664	1327	427	294	1373	1303	2082	1495	935				11612
June	294	710	1088	1271	1339		414	1525	2173	1666	1158				11638
July	162	334	1358	247	1396	64		1106	2256	1287	1735	1243	524		11712
August			1285		906	1115		974	1888	1304	1290	1277	910		10949
September		270	1215		793	1082	810	1092	883	1272	1500	1337	1456		11710
October		747	693		737	1013	635	1442	797	1083	2004	1574	1556		12281
November		373	1173		794	1164	1455	844	1983	1546	1350	1289	1112		13083
December		853	1170		722	790	1202	1134	1352	887	1237	1591	1380		12318
Total:	2583	7874	13578	6159	11737	11202	8460	15587	18902	15056	18119	8311	6938		144506

ST. HELENS COUNTY BOROUGH
AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Vehicles in commission at 31st December 1971

<i>Make</i>	<i>Registration No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	
Austin Princess	GDJ 111	1956	2/4 Stretcher
" "	RDJ 653 F	1967	Ambulances
Austin J.2.	RDJ 766	1961	
" "	UDJ 28	1962	
" "	WDJ 704	1964	
" "	GDJ 290 C	1965	
" "	LDJ 443 E	1967	
" J.U.	WDJ 873 G	1969	
" "	CDJ 257 H	1970	
" "	HDJ 94 J	1971	
" "	HDJ 95 J	1971	

Comment

In my 1971 Report I commented at length on the background of national and local disputes to the introduction of new training schemes and to the establishment of our own Station Consultative Committee. At national level there was established an Ambulance Services Advisory Committee which then began to churn out the first of a long series of advisory circulars on the Ambulance Services. No doubt, most of the advice received was necessary and valuable and is playing a valuable part in up-lifting the general quality of ambulance services. Nevertheless, the digestion of the mass of material is a considerable undertaking. Probably amongst the more important ones issued in 1971 was a Circular recommending use of particular types of oxygen resuscitation and suction equipment in the Ambulance Service. In very general terms, this would mean in our Ambulance Service equipping all ambulances with readily portable hand-operated oxygen and air-giving apparatus and specimens were ordered for trial. Another important Circular provided for new standards of radio communication within the services which would ultimately mean the re-equipping of all our ambulances with new radios. A glance at the Table above will show that the ambulances themselves were being replaced at an increasing rate, if compared with similar information in previous Reports.

VI – TUBERCULOSIS

In 1971, 14 persons were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis; no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. This was next to the lowest incidence so far recorded and there was a notable shift in distribution of cases towards the older age groups.

There were 3 deaths from the disease in 1971 all due to the pulmonary form. This was the lowest total of deaths from tuberculosis so far recorded in the town.

Table T.B.1
Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1971

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65-	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75-	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS:	12	2	—	—	2	1	—	—

Table T.B.2

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year, 1952 to 1971.

Year	No. of Primary notifications received		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1952	99	17	37	3	3.4	0.3
1953	104	20	27	4	2.5	0.4
1954	109	3	28	1	2.5	0.1
1955	71	7	24	4	2.1	0.4
1956	116	6	12	3	1.1	0.3
1957	85	20	15	2	1.4	0.2
1958	79	5	17	2	1.5	0.2
1959	68	9	10	3	0.9	0.3
1960	62	6	10	—	0.9	0.0
1961	51	7	10	—	0.9	0.0
1962	49	10	12	—	1.1	0.0
1963	39	2	6	1	0.6	0.1
1964	40	3	11	1	1.0	0.1
1965	32	5	6	1	0.6	0.1
1966	23	3	8	—	0.8	0.0
1967	20	—	8	—	0.8	0.0
1968	13	1	6	—	0.6	0.0
1969	28	—	3	3	0.3	0.3
1970	16	1	6	—	0.6	0.0
1971	14	—	3	—	0.3	0.0

Chest Clinic

The administration and clinical work of the tuberculosis service is carried out at Bank House, Cloughton Street, under the supervision of the Area Chest Physician appointed by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. This officer is responsible to the Local Authority for work under that part of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which deals with the care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The Welfare Officer is wholly employed by the Local Authority, and close liaison is maintained with the Regional Board.

During 1971, the following attendances were made at the Chest Clinic:

Tuberculous cases and contacts . . . 1,186

The number of St. Helens cases on the Register on the 31st December, 1971 was: 600 (485 Pulmonary and 115 non-pulmonary)

Institutional Treatment

Two tuberculous patients from St. Helens were admitted to Eccleston Hall for treatment during the year 1971. There were no in-patient deaths of St. Helens cases during the twelve months.

VII – PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE SERVICE

As approved by the Health Committee, various articles of nursing equipment are available, e.g. air rings, bed pans, urinals, back rests, commodes, bed cradles, hospital type beds, pulleys, wheelchairs, walking aids, plastic sheeting and disposable underpads.

The number of patients using the loan service during the year December 1970 - December 1971 was 184.

Welfare

During the year, the Welfare Officer advised and assisted patients and their relatives. Home visits were made, also visits to Eccleston Hall, Providence Hospital, St. Helens Hospital, Whiston Hospital and Sunny Bank Nursing Home, Woolton.

Chronic Sick and Geriatric Case

Close liaison between hospitals and Welfare Officer has continued and many people coming out of the hospital have been loaned the necessary equipment.

Marie Curie Memorial Fund

Application for assistance was made on behalf of 14 patients and one patient was admitted to Sunny Bank Nursing Home for a period of one month.

National Cancer Relief Fund

Fifty six patients received grants from this fund. Thirteen patients received extra grants for fuel and bedding.

Chest Clinic

Close liaison between the Chest Clinic and the Welfare Officer has been of great assistance to a number of patients.

December 1970 - December 1971

Nursing Aids Borrowed	Nursing Aids Returned	Home visits	Office Interviews
184	92	1,605	973

Renal Dialysis

The local authority may make and charge for adaptations to a dwelling to enable the patient to be accommodated there with a home dialysis unit ("kidney machine"). The cost of adaptation may vary enormously with the needs of the patient and the degree of adaptation needed. In St. Helens, the necessary liaison work between the Health Department, the Urological Unit at Sefton Hospital and the local authority Building Department who carry out the work is usually a function of the Welfare Officer. In September, I reported to the Health Committee on a Circular from the Department of Health and Social Security on this subject particularly requesting that attention should be given to making installations at the shortest possible notice. A previous installation in St. Helens had been carried out expeditiously but nevertheless powers were delegated to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for speed's sake. Shortly afterwards, we were in fact asked to provide for a case and I was able to report to December Committee that the Building Department had rapidly executed the work. No charge was made.

FAMILY PLANNING

The bulk of the Corporation's service is provided by the Family Planning Association acting as our agent, using the premises provided by the Corporation at Bickerstaffe Street, on agreed terms, but grants are also made to the St. Helens Catholic Marriage Advisory Council and the St. Helens and District Marriage Guidance Council in recognition of the family planning component of their activities. Previously we paid a grant to the F.P.A. based on the actual number of St. Helens cases attending, and also for total payment in respect of certain medical/social cases referred by the Authority's Officers.

Early in 1971, consideration was given to a request by the Family Planning Association that we adopt one of the plans available under the National Family Planning Agency Scheme which at national level had been agreed in principle with the Department of Health and Social Security and the Local Authority Associations. St. Helens adopted Plan 5 (from July) which, in effect, meant that free advice and examination would be provided for all comers to the clinic with the Authority paying a fee for each case to the F.P.A. The obligation to provide not only advice and examination but supplies for "medical" cases (as defined by the attending doctor), continues. This is a considerable step forward.

The Committee agreed to the making of a submission for financial assistance under the Urban Programme for the starting of an additional clinic at Jersey Street (where the Health Visitors considered there was a very evident need), and for the institution of a Domiciliary Service whereby women may be seen in their own homes in special circumstances. These applications were unsuccessful, but we were advised to make a further submission in response to a subsequent circular. This remained undecided at the end of the year.

Arrangements continued for the further training of Health Visitors and Midwives in family planning.

Extension of the waiting area at the clinic by communication with the first floor of the adjoining building was approved to relieve the considerable congestion experienced at some of the sessions.

Bickerstaffe Street Clinic

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
New patients	519	573	509	643	827
Transfers	87	75	89	90	138
Established patients	1,977	2,191	1,895	2,046	2,228
repeat	—	—	3,731	3,537	3,828
Total Attendances	<u>2,583</u>	<u>2,839</u>	<u>6,224</u>	<u>6,316</u>	<u>7,021</u>
No. referred by L.A.	35	44	34	28	60
Social and Medical cases	—	—	23	143	220

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the vaccination of school children against tuberculosis was continued during 1971. During the year, 1080 were Heaf tested. Of these, 90 failed to keep their second appointment and will be followed up when the vaccination team again visits the school during the coming year. 165 pupils were found to be positive to the test and therefore did not require vaccination. The remaining 825 were successfully vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine.

Pupils who were found to be strongly positive to the Heaf tuberculin test were referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation. In the majority of these cases it was found that there was a history of contact with a known case of tuberculosis, usually a member of the family. No active cases were found in this group during 1971.

The 165 pupils found positive to the Heaf tuberculin test give a tuberculin positive rate of 16.7% for the groups tested during 1971.

B.C.G. vaccination, together with tuberculin testing of school children, has a vital part to play in the future struggle against a disease that has been largely controlled but by no means eradicated.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

The service is free to persons aged 65 years and over and treatments are given in the surgeries of practising chiropodists who are registered with the Health Authority. Prior authority for each treatment must first be obtained from the Health Department but invariably the recommendation of the chiropodist as to the date of the next treatment is accepted.

In December, I reported to the Health Committee that Pilkington, the glass manufacturers, had approached us with the request to take over the chiropody service which they were themselves providing for pensioners. Since these people are in any event entitled to treatment under the authority's scheme, it was agreed that any service provided to this group in the firm's surgeries would be reimbursed by us in the same way that other chiropodists in the town are remunerated.

The total number of treatments provided, as shown in the following table, was 15,991. This compares with 15,419 in 1970, 15,576 in 1969, 16,747 in 1968 and 21,515 in 1967.

Chiropody Treatments, 1971

Month	Surgery		Domiciliary		Total		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
January	258	944	29	154	287	1098	1385
February	229	794	28	155	257	949	1206
March	263	986	29	184	292	1170	1462
April	227	822	36	161	263	983	1246
May	282	982	35	172	317	1154	1471
June	223	838	35	129	258	967	1225
July	265	1019	34	168	299	1187	1486
August	203	712	33	136	236	848	1084
September	306	1075	35	190	341	1265	1606
October	193	735	29	150	222	885	1107
November	293	1039	33	183	326	1222	1548
December	199	759	39	168	238	927	1165
Total:	2941	10705	395	1950	3336	12655	15991

Of these 72 treatments were given to handicapped patients below the age of 65 in their own homes or in chiropodists surgeries.

The age and sex distribution of patients included on the Chiropody Register, receiving treatment during the year was as follows:

Sex	Ages				Treatments						
					Surgery			Domiciliary			Grand Total
	-65	65-69	70+	Totals	-65	65-69	70+	-65	65-69	70+	
Males	6	209	507	722	14	932	1995	25	58	312	3336
Females	8	583	1766	2357	4	2797	7904	29	98	1823	12655
Totals	14	792	2273	3079	18	3729	9899	54	156	2135	15991
					13646			2345			

The total number of patients dealt with was 3,079 compared with 2,598 in 1970. Patients increased by 18% over 1970 and treatments provided increased by 3.6% in the same period.

The average number of treatments provided to individuals over the past five years is shown in the following table.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF TREATMENTS PROVIDED TO EACH
INDIVIDUAL PATIENT.**

	Treatments per annum				
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Males	4.6	5.6	4.4	4.5	6.9
Females	5.2	6.1	5.6	6.3	7.8

The above average include new patients commencing treatment and other patients discontinuing treatment during the year.

At a special Chiropody Clinic sited at the Welfare Foods Centre in Bickerstaffe Street, 91 treatments were provided to a total of 54 patients, 33 being expectant mothers and 21 handicapped persons.

VIII—VENEREAL DISEASES

The St. Helens Special Treatment Centre is under the administration of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, but the centre continues to be staffed by male and female nurses provided by the Corporation under agency agreements.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Centre during the year 1971, in comparison with the previous year. This includes cases from outside the Borough who may receive treatment at the St. Helens Centre.

However, many of the cases were from St. Helens or nearby. The continuing increase in venereal disease incidence is a source of great disappointment, to say the least, but I feel unable to add anything of value to the massive attention which the subject has already achieved in all the media from laymen and from doctors.

Table V.D.1

	1971	
	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January	71	53
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment) and Transfers.	238	145
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend	283	154
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	26	44
5. No. of attendances	1,428	535

Table V.D.2 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres, and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection.

Table V.D.2

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1962 to 1971:

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1962	1	—	—	—	24	15	40
1963	—	2	—	—	22	12	36
1964	1	1	—	—	38	15	55
1965	1	—	—	—	21	12	34
1966	—	—	—	—	24	11	35
1967	3	—	—	—	41	8	52
1968	3	—	—	—	37	10	50
1969	—	—	—	—	92	39	131
1970	—	—	—	—	100	75	175
1971	1	—	—	—	96	42	138

The following table V.D.3 gives a summary of the services rendered at the treatment centre during the year, showing the areas in which the patients resided.

Table V.D.3

Name of County, County Borough, etc.	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Other Conditions	Total
St. Helens	1	68	93	162
Lancashire C.C.	—	42	18	60
Others	—	28	2	30
Total	1	138	113	252

Contact Tracing

During the year the welfare arrangements in connection with the Special Treatment Clinic were carried on as in previous years.

Gonorrhoea in Young People

Of the 96 males and 42 females who had contracted Gonorrhoea the age groups are as shown:—

	1971	
	M	F
Under 16	2	1
16 to 17	32	10
18 to 19	47	6
20 to 24	5	18
25 and over	10	7
Total	96	42

Consultant's Report

Dr. A. Lennox Thorburn is the Consultant Venereologist normally responsible for diagnosis and treatment at the clinic and he has submitted the following personal report:—

Last year about a quarter of a million registrations were recorded at V.D. clinics in England and Wales, but statistics are notoriously misleading, and none more so than those given out to the press and other media.

The public recognise venereal disease to be syphilis and gonorrhoea, and the facts are that gonorrhoea has greatly increased, while syphilis has dramatically declined. Actually, there were about 60,000 registrations of gonorrhoea in England and Wales last year. The rest of these registrations were suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (such as thrush and warts), many of which are trivial compared to gonorrhoea and syphilis. The Ministry require information about these and so they must be registered. Previously they existed and were treated, but not counted as they are today.

Another point to remember in interpreting these vital statistics is that one patient can suffer from four ailments, and therefore will represent four registrations. Again, one patient who suffers from gonorrhoea may become re-infected ten times or more, and this will appear in statistics as ten registrations!

Why is there so much gonorrhoea extant? The root cause is quite simply from a loss in morality among the population, especially in the age group 16-25, and especially so in young women. Sex appears to dominate advertising, and an unnatural and overt interest is created in sex in school, office and on shop floor, abetted by mass media of T.V. and sex films. The Pill and other contraceptive practices promote promiscuity of course, and increase V.D.

A careful survey of all cases of V.D. shows that over 90% have suffered from these diseases as a self-inflicted wound from sexual promiscuity without restraint.

The great undiscovered and latent pool of V.D. lies in the promiscuous younger woman who is unaware she carries disease, as it is so often silent and not causing her symptoms. Only when these women come forward for examination and treatment will the V.D. figures fall as swiftly as they have risen.

St. Helens has not suffered like adjoining cities, and the town can congratulate itself so far. It possesses a fine, modern, well-staffed clinic in the Public Health Department polyclinic in Parade Street, in an atmosphere of anonymity, with splendid help from general practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health.

Treatment today is largely by tablets and is swift and sure, and patients should not delay in seeking a quick routine check. Personal, marital and social distress is easily eliminated by modern scientific medical attention.

IX – MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Notification of Births

Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,973 live births and 37 still-births were notified during 1971. The corresponding figures for 1970 were 1,887 live births and 48 still-births.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 2,055 giving a birth rate of 19.8 per 1,000 of the population for the year 1971. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively, 17.6 in 1965, 17.1 in 1966, 16.9 in 1967, 19.0 in 1968, 17.7 in 1969, and 18.8 in 1970.

Infant Mortality

In my 1970 Report, I referred at some length to the high infant mortality rate experienced in that year. However, I am very glad to be able to say that the same high rate was not continued in 1971 and less comment is required. However, some of the Tables now presented were first prepared for the 1970 Report to give a more detailed picture of infant mortality. These have been in the main continued though the specially constructed Table of 5-yearly averages has not been repeated as obviously they could not be directly comparable. Particular comment on congenital abnormalities was promised and this duly appears later in this section

Table M.C.W.1

Number of infants who died in year following the year of their birth

Year	Number	Infant Mortality Rate	Year	Number	Infant Mortality Rate
1959	7	24.3	1965	2	19.0
1960	15	39.2	1966	7	25.9
1961	10	28.3	1967	9	23.5
1962	16	22.2	1968	7	25.7
1963	7	26.9	1969	2	19.2
1964	6	21.2	1970	7	27.9
			1971	6	24.3

Table M.C.W. 2

Year	Birth to 24 hrs.	1-7 days	8 days to 1 mth.	1 - 3 mths.	3 - 6 mths.	6 - 9 mths.	9 - 12 mths.	Total
1955	14	30	2	6	5	1	1	59
1956	11	19	3	11	6	—	1	51
1957	13	17	9	6	7	5	2	59
1958	21	14	5	5	16	3	3	67
1959	11	16	4	6	5	3	1	46
1960	19	20	6	12	9	6	3	75
1961	14	15	3	6	9	6	2	55
1962	10	11	8	5	8	1	1	44
1963	15	17	4	6	7	—	2	51
1964	16	10	1	2	7	2	—	38
1965	11	13	2	5	1	3	—	35
1966	15	9	6	8	4	3	1	46
1967	15	9	—	6	7	2	2	41
1968	21	16	3	5	3	1	1	50
1969	6	11	5	6	3	4	—	35
1970	14	18	7	4	4	—	7	54
1971	21	7	4	9	4	2	3	50

Table M.C.W.3

Year	Congenital Abnormality	Prem- aturity	Pneu- monia	Infec- tion	Acci- dents	Other causes	Total
1955	12	26	3	5	4	9	59
1956	10	25	7	5	1	3	51
1957	11	21	8	8	2	9	59
1958	22	17	13	4	4	7	67
1959	14	15	3	4	1	9	46
1960	18	25	15	4	1	12	75
1961	16	16	6	10	2	5	55
1962	14	10	9	4	1	6	44
1963	10	22	11	4	—	4	51
1964	10	16	6	2	1	3	38
1965	5	12	10	1	1	6	35
1966	18	13	10	—	4	1	46
1967	9	15	14	—	1	2	41
1968	12	25	5	3	4	1	50
1969	9	11	8	1	3	3	35
1970	17	22	7	2	3	3	54
1971	15	15	10	1	2	7	50

Table M.C.W.4

Ages at which death occurred	1969							1970							1971						
	Causes of Death							Causes of Death							Causes of Death						
	Congenital Abnormalities	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Other Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL	Congenital Abnormalities	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Other Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL	Congenital Abnormalities	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Other Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL
Birth to 24 hours	2	3	-	-	-	1	6	2	10	1	-	-	1	14	5	11	-	-	-	1	17
1 - 7 days	2	8	1	-	-	-	11	4	12	-	1	1	-	18	2	3	-	-	-	1	6
8 days to 1 month	2	-	2	-	-	1	5	4	-	3	-	-	-	7	2	1	2	-	-	2	7
1 - 3 months	2	-	2	1	1	-	6	2	-	1	-	-	1	4	3	-	4	1	-	-	8
3 - 6 months	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	2	-	1	-	4	1	-	2	-	1	1	5
6 - 9 months	-	-	3	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	3
9 - 12 months	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	1	7	1	-	1	-	1	1	4
All Ages	9	11	8	1	3	3	35	17	22	7	2	3	3	54	15	15	10	1	2	7	50

Table M.C.W.5

Month when death occurred	1969						1970						1971								
	Causes of Death						Causes of Death						Causes of Death								
	Congenital	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL	Congenital	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL	Congenital	Prematurity	Pneumonia	Infection	Accidents	Other Causes	TOTAL
January	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	3	-	-	-	4
February	2	-	1	1	1	-	5	4	4	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
March	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	1	-	-	1	-	5	2	2	1	-	-	-	5
April	1	1	2	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
May	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	2	-	-	-	8	1	5	1	-	-	1	8
June	-	2	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
July	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
August	1	2	2	-	1	1	7	2	4	-	-	1	1	8	2	2	1	-	-	1	6
September	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	7
October	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	4
November	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	1	4
December	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	3
TOTAL	9	11	8	1	3	3	35	17	22	7	2	3	3	54	15	15	10	1	2	7	50

Prematurity:

Special enquiry is routinely made into deaths from prematurity and in Table M.C.W.6 these are further analysed for 1971. (An infant of 5½ lbs. or less at birth is classed as a premature birth for this purpose).

Table M.C.W.6

Analysis of Deaths of Premature Infants

(a) Weights at Birth of Premature Infants:	
Less than 2 lbs. 3 oz.	7
2 lb. 3 oz. to 3 lb. 4 oz.	5
3 lb. 4 oz. to 4 lb. 6 oz.	1
4 lb. 6 oz. to 4 lb. 15 oz.	2
4 lb. 15 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.	
Total:	15
(b) Periods of pregnancy at which premature births occurred (i.e. 5½ lb. or less at birth)	
Period of Pregnancy:	
26 weeks	2
27 weeks	2
28/30 weeks	1
29 weeks	1
30 weeks	3
31 weeks	
32 weeks	2
33 weeks	
34/36 weeks	2
37 weeks	1
38 weeks	1
Total:	15

Still Births

The number of still-births registered as belonging to the Borough was 37. The assignable causes for 1971 and for the two preceding years appear in Table M.C.W.7

Table M.C.W.7

Cause of Death	1969	1970	1971
Placental Insufficiency	9	9	10
A.P.H.	—	—	—
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	1	—	—
Concealed Accidental Haemorrhage	8	1	—
Essential Hypertension	—	—	1
Multiple Congenital Deformities	—	7	—
Anencephaly	6	8	6
Prematurity	2	—	—
Hydrocephaly	2	—	3
Intra-partum Asphyxia	1	—	1
Intra-uterine Asphyxia	1	6	1
Prolapsed Cord	—	—	—
Knot in Cord	—	—	—
Cord around neck	2	4	4
Rh. Incompatibility	1	2	—
Abruptis Placentae	—	4	—
Hydramnios	—	1	—
Post-maturity	—	1	—
Transverse lie	—	1	—
Cause unknown	—	4	4
Intra-Uterine Anoxia	—	—	5
Congenital Heart	—	—	1
Accidental Haemorrhage	—	—	1
TOTAL	33	48	37

Congenital Abnormalities

Congenital abnormalities noted in children residing within the Borough are notified to the Registrar General. During 1971 a total of 91 abnormalities were noted in a total of 70 live and still-births.

17 infants with congenital malformations were born at home, the remaining 53 St. Helens infants (of whom 11 were still-births) with congenital malformations were born in hospital.

Table M.C.W.8

Year	Total No. of babies born with Cong. Abnormalities	Congenital Abnormalities in Stillbirths.	Deaths from Congenital Abnormalities in children. under 1 year
1968	46	4	10
1969	46	7	10
1970	60	15	18 (5 born 1969)
1971	59	11	15

70 congenital malformations (59 in live births and 11 in still-births) occurred in St. Helens infants, and these were notified to the Ministry monthly by the Medical Officer of Health. The following tables give particulars of the site of the malformations and the months of birth throughout the year.

It is a simple fact that we have a relatively high incidence of congenital abnormality in St. Helens as compared with other areas. Table M.C.W.8 compares our overall experience of abnormality for several recent years and Tables M.C.W.9 and 10 analyse those in greater detail for 1971.

There is an enormous variety of congenital abnormalities from the trivial to the devastating and affecting any or all of the body's parts or systems. The most serious malformations are incompatible with life and the baby may even die in utero. In some instances the causes are known. The limb deficiencies caused by the drug thalidomide must surely now be the best known, but other drugs are implicated in the causation of congenital abnormality from time to time and suspicion is now being cast on phenytoin used for treatment in epilepsy; some are caused by injurious infections, e.g. german measles; some, and notably metabolic disorders, are inherited; some may be due to chromosomal mutations, e.g. achondroplasia (one form of dwarfism), or mongolism. However, in most instances there is no known cause. Different types of abnormality may cluster in ways which suggest exposure of the mothers to a common noxious agent, infectious or otherwise, and there are continuing high incidences in some areas suggesting alternatively a genetically determined disorder or previous disposition. Spina bifida, hydrocephaly and anencephaly are (usually) serious neural tube disorders which show marked regional variations in incidence, the north west of England being one area with an above average incidence, though anencephaly is persistently highest in Northern Ireland. This is also true for congenital abnormalities in general and St. Helens shares the general experience of the area, though by no means experiencing the highest incidence. The most extensive comparison made with incidence in other Authorities was that reported in the United Kingdom Atlas of Disease Mortality for the period 1959 - 63, where we find that for congenital malformations in male babies there was a "comparatively high" incidence in St. Helens (there being a still higher category), but the incidence in females was actually under average. Our recent enquiry into infant mortality did reveal that we are probably more diligent in reporting abnormality than many authorities, and that there has been a tendency to include those children with abnormalities not evident at birth and only coming to light later. Our notifications may, therefore, be artificially high.

A Dr. James compared the incidence of anencephaly in 77 County Boroughs (including St. Helens), and it was interesting that whilst there were considerable annual variations in most towns (e.g. one Lancashire town had 7 in 1964 but only 1 in the following year), his analysis did not support the idea of epidemicity, and, therefore, of infectious disease being a major cause. A suggestion that the incidence of anencephaly was associated with **hard** water was followed up by him, but no supporting evidence emerged from his analysis. On the other hand, some individuals have suggested that the incidence of anencephaly might be associated with **soft** water. In fact, Fielding and Smithells studied the relationship between water hardness and anencephaly in Liverpool, Southport and St. Helens, and concluded that there was no connection; the introduction of water-softening in St. Helens appeared to have had no effect on the incidence.

(Please see page 75 for further comment on hardness of water and its relation to mortality).

A suggestion that spina bifida could be due to the presence of an unidentified substance in blighted potato tubers, achieved great publicity and even the Department of Health and Social Security suggested that pregnant mothers might take particular care over any potatoes they might eat. However, this was of particular interest to us and my own enquiries suggested the case was very shaky, so that I did not add to the publicity. Since then there has gradually mounted a wealth of criticism and conflicting data which now leaves the theory with little, if any, validity. Nevertheless, it was a very bold and imaginative hypothesis which points the way to how much more intensive detailed attention to the epidemiology of diseases, other than infectious diseases, might ultimately be extremely rewarding.

I have already mentioned that this Authority (the Health and Water Departments) provided information for a study of anencephaly in relation to water hardness. We also co-operate with Alder Hey Hospital in their collection of information on congenital abnormalities, of which a prime aim is the earliest possible detection of any harmful environmental agent. The Health Department makes its own extensive enquiry into every notified congenital abnormality, which includes the compilation of very detailed records of factors which might some day be found to have some relevance.

Table M.C.W.9
CAUSES OF CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES, 1971

	Home	Cowley Hill Hospital	Whiston Hospital	Others	Total	No. of these which were Stillborn
C.N.S.	3	11	9	—	23	10
Eye and Ear	1	—	—	—	1	—
Alimentary System	1	12	2	1	16	—
Heart and Great Vessels	1	2	1	—	4	1
Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urogenital System	1	3	—	—	4	—
Limbs	9	11	4	2	26	—
Other Skeletal	—	1	—	—	1	—
Other malformations	1	3	—	—	4	—
Other systems	3	5	4	—	12	—
Total:	20	48	20	3	91	11

Table M.C.W.10
NO. OF BABIES BORN WITH CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES
AND MONTH OF BIRTH

	Home	Cowley Hill Hospital	Whiston Hospital	Others	Total	Died as a result of Malformation	Stillborn
January	1	1	1	—	3	—	—
February	2	2	1	—	5	—	2
March	1	4	1	—	6	—	1
April	1	4	2	—	7	—	1
May	1	3	3	—	7	1	2
June	1	3	1	2	7	1	1
July	1	4	4	—	9	—	2
August	1	2	—	—	3	—	1
September	1	—	4	—	5	—	—
October	2	1	1	—	4	1	—
November	2	6	—	—	8	1	1
December	3	2	1	—	6	—	—
Total:	17	32	19	2	70	4	11

	Births	Malformations
Babies born with 1 malformation	58	58
Babies born with 2 malformations	8	16
Babies born with 3 malformations	2	6
Babies born with 4 malformations	1	4
Babies born with 7 malformations	1	7
Total:	70	91

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths reported in 1971.

CLINIC SERVICES

Child Welfare Clinics

Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held on 12 sessions weekly at 8 centres.

The figures for attendances at Child Welfare Clinics again showed a small but evident increase over those for the previous year which is, no doubt, associated with the increasing number of youngsters.

Guthrie testing for P.K.U. screening continued. By this method, infants' blood is collected by heel prick on to absorbent paper on the 10th day. If this is not possible, a specimen of urine on filter paper is tested at three weeks of age.

Specimens are sent to the Department of Pathology, Alder Hey Hospital, and the Medical Officer of Health is notified of all results.

Specimens requiring further investigation

	Specimens having a Negative Result	No. of Specimens	Specimens having Negative Result after investigation	Specimens having Positive Result after investigation	Total No. of Specimens examined
Blood Tests	1849	22	22	—	1893
Urine Tests	53	6	6	—	65
Total:	1902	28	28	—	1958

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis, as well as smallpox vaccination, is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics and at the special sessions held at the School Clinic, Parade Street, and at the outlying district clinics.

During the year, health education activities in the various clinics were augmented by a series of film shows on appropriate subjects, which were shown regularly at the Central and District Clinics.

At some clinics trained Health Visitors were able to carry out routine hearing testing of babies aged 9 - 10 months using clinical methods to detect early signs of deafness.

Our plans for the replacement of the increasingly vandalised Lacey Street Clinic were brought to a full stop when it became clear that there would be a possibility of developing a Health Centre in the Thatto Heath area. Successful completion of a Health Centre project would be worth waiting for.

Ante-natal Clinics

In my 1970 Report I explained why our doctor-staffed ante-natal clinics provided under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act were being withdrawn. During 1971 this type of facility was provided only at Ashtons Green and Hardshaw Street Clinics and attendances continued to decline. During the year, the Health Committee protested again at the proposed closing of Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital and in connection with this facilities were offered for consultant-staffed ante-natal clinics at Hardshaw Street to accommodate those women who might otherwise have had to make frequent visits to Whiston Hospital. The premises were inspected and the offer did receive consideration but was not taken up. Cowley Hill Hospital continued in use throughout the year.

Expectant mothers have routine blood tests carried out at these clinics. The tests are for blood grouping, Rhesus Factor and Kahn Reaction. During the year, 9 specimens were sent for examination. Of these, 7 were Rhesus positive and 2 were Rhesus negative, one being phenotype.

The importance of this test lies in the fact that the doctor in charge of the confinement is forewarned that the baby may need an exchange transfusion immediately after birth. Rhesus Negative blood may be obtained from the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre before the confinement, in readiness for either the mother or the baby.

Routine Blood Counts and Haemoglobin estimations are carried out at all ante-natal clinics, the laboratory work in connection with this being conducted by the Pathologist at the St. Helens Hospital.

At the end of the year, there were 2 ante-natal sessions being held weekly, 1 of which was combined with an infant welfare-session.

Table M.C.W.11
Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during 1971

Child Welfare Clinics:

Number who attended and who were born in:

(i) 1971	1564
(ii) 1970	1387
(iii) 1966 - 69	1106
Number of attendances by children	22938

Ante-Natal Clinics:

Medical Officers' Sessions

Number of expectant mothers who attended	37
Number of attendances by expectant mothers	111

Midwives' Sessions (no medical officer being present)

Number of expectant mothers who attended	500
Number of attendances by expectant mothers	1993

Gynaecological and Post-Natal Clinic:

Number of mothers who attended	13
Number of attendances	19

During the year arrangements were made for the attachment of midwives to a fifth Group Practice in the Borough. In all, domiciliary midwives attended 406 sessions at the General Practitioners' Surgeries during the year.

During the year a midwives' ante-natal session was started at Hardshaw Street Clinic.

Midwives' ante-natal sessions at District Clinics were conducted during the year as follows:

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Patients Attending</i>	<i>No. of Attendances</i>
Albion Street	82	305
Ashtons Green Drive	131	408
Carr Mill	30	109
Irwin Road	57	266
Jersey Street	72	312
Lacey Street	98	473
Hardshaw Street	30	120

Arrangements have been operative for many years whereby maternity and child welfare cases from the County districts adjoining St. Helens may attend any of the St. Helens clinics for advice and treatment.

Gynaecological and Post-Natal Clinic

This clinic is held once a week at the Hardshaw Street Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision. During 1971, 4 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examination.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 9.

Patients who needed operative treatment were referred to the out-patient departments of the local hospitals.

At this clinic patients may also receive advice on birth control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. These patients have been instructed in the use of the occlusive diaphragm. The Contraceptive Pill is not issued from this clinic; patients who wish to use this method of contraception are referred to the St. Helens Branch of the Family Planning Association.

Relaxation and Mothercraft Classes

A class is held once a week at the Town Hall Clinic. The expectant mothers attend for the last two months of their pregnancy.

The first hour is spent doing breathing and relaxation exercises after which the mothers have a cup of tea. The next hour is spent in either an open discussion with the health visitor in the chair, or in mothercraft instruction by the health visitor. The classes have proved very popular as evidenced by the attendance figures. In 1971, 78 women made 371 attendances.

Cervical Smear Clinic

Cervical smear clinics are held at Hardshaw Street Clinic for the collection of cervical smears for cyto-diagnostic investigation and/or early detection of Cancer of the Cervix. Urine and breast examinations are offered with the smear test and these are welcomed by all patients.

The campaign to acquaint women with the medical services now available for early detection of cancer of the womb was continued.

In August, 1971 a further cytology session was commenced at Hardshaw Street Clinic on Tuesday mornings. (This replaced the Gynaecological/Post-Natal Clinic which was combined with the Tuesday afternoon ante-natal Clinic in August 1971).

Smears are also taken at Industrial Premises in the town.

St. Helens Hospital Laboratory continued to test approximately twenty smears per week and were able to call on the services of the Christie Hospital Laboratory, Manchester, for the testing of the others.

All results of cytology tests and findings on examination were notified direct to the general practitioner and to the Health Department by the hospital laboratories. In addition all positive and suspicious cases were notified by the department to the patient's general practitioner by letter or telephone.

In October 1971 we received a memorandum and circular from the D.H.S.S. — LHAL 33/71 — setting out arrangements for the National five year Cytology Recall Scheme to commence in January 1972. Detailed arrangements with Executive Councils and G.P.s were considered and the preparations made for the service to commence in January, 1972.

(We already use a three year Recall Scheme for our own patients and follow up Christie Hospital cases for their three year recall and research schemes — these are to continue).

Cytology Clinic Times

- Hardshaw Street Clinic — Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. (by appointment).
- Hardshaw Street Clinic — Monday 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. (by appointment).
- Hardshaw Street Clinic — Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. (by appointment).

Industrial sessions as arranged with individual factories.

During 1971 a total of 1,528 smears were taken. This number includes 112 smears taken at cytology sessions held at industrial premises in the town.

Details of smears taken are given below:

Total number of women examined	1,443
Total number of smears taken:	
Number of routine smears	1038
Number of repeat smears	155
Number of Re-call smears	
(3 yrs. and over)	335
Number of cases from the County	394
Number of positive cases	5
Number of Suspicious cases	28
Unsatisfactory	29
Broken in transit	2
Smears not taken	6
Total attendance:	1,554

A total of 297 cases were referred by letter to the general practitioners of other conditions found on examination at the screening clinics.

Smears taken at	Trichomonas, Monilial infections	Conditions of Breast	Glycosuria	Albuminuria	Erosions	Polyps	Others	Total
Hardshaw St. Clinic	37	11	2	1	54	12	70	187
During Industrial sessions	8	1	—	—	1	3	11	24
Re-calls	8	—	—	1	20	4	23	56
Repeats	5	1	—	1	11	—	12	30
Total:	58	13	2	3	86	19	116	297

Monday evening clinics commenced at Hardshaw Street on Monday, 11th May, 1970. Re-call Service for patients (over three years, i.e. 1966 and 1967), started on 4th June, 1970. A morning session commenced on 10th August.

The Services of the Christie Hospital Laboratory, Manchester, were used for the testing of the smears taken on Monday evenings, and Tuesday morning.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

a) *National Welfare Foods Scheme*

During 1971 the scheme underwent substantial alteration. It is by no means easy to chart a path through the welfare forest, but the health visitors are very well informed and make great efforts to disseminate the information through the clinics and through individual visiting. The most significant changes were that orange juice and cod liver oil were to be phased out, to be replaced by vitamin A.D. and C. drops for children and reconstituted vitamin A.D. and C. tablets for mothers.

Table M.C.W.12

Receipts and issues of welfare foods for the period 1st January, 1971, to 31st December, 1971.

	National Dried Milk	Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	Vit. A. & D.	A.D. & C. Drops
1. Stocks Received from Ministry of Food					
(a) In hand on 1/1/71	94	987	185	201	—
(b) Received during period	2844	20250	270	660	2520
Total:	2938	21237	455	861	2520

continued.

	National Dried Milk	Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	Vit. A. & D.	A.D. & C. Drops
2. Disposal of Stocks					
(a) Issued against coupons					
(i) Paid for by cash	291	19405	346	836	1864
(ii) Free	348	617	108	25	222
(b) Issued at full fee	2118	—	—	—	—
Total issued to public:	2747	20022	454	861	2086
(c) Other issues	—	300	—	—	—
Total issues:	2747	20322	454	861	2086
3. Returned to Ministry of Food, Damaged, etc.	—	21	1	—	—
4. Stock in Hand 31/12/71	191	766	—	—	434

The issues of welfare foods from the various distribution centres during the period 1st January, 1971, to 31st December, 1971, are shown in Table M.C.W.13.

Receipts during this period amounted to £2,040.08.

Table M.C.W.13

Issues of Welfare Foods to the public from various Distribution Centres 1971.

Distribution Centre	National Dried Milk	Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	Vit. A. & D.	A.D. & C. Drops
Welfare Foods Centre	1783	8914	184	552	588
Albion Street Clinic	55	1607	58	35	280
Blackbrook Clinic	15	1464	27	20	133
Irwin Road Clinic	545	2095	35	52	311
Hardshaw Street Clinic	76	1454	38	73	206
Carr Mill Clinic	88	652	13	15	57
Jersey Street Clinic	3	1214	34	8	154
Lacey Street Clinic	106	1519	33	35	177
Ashtons Green Drive Clinic	76	1101	32	71	180
Total	2747	20020	454	861	2086

Dental Treatment

Table M.C.W.14

(a) Numbers provided with Dental Care

	Examined	Commenced Treatment	Completed Treatment
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	27	27	17
Children under 5	129	125	118

Continued.

(b) *Forms of Dental Treatment Provided*

	Scalings & Gum Treat- ment	Fillings	Crowns or Inlays	Extrac- tions	General Anaes- thetics	Upper or Lower Dentures Provided		Radio- graphs
						Full	Partial	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	12	31	—	23	5	6	2	2
Children under 5	—	12	—	241	106	—	—	4

Orthopaedic Defects

Children under 5 years of age may be dealt with under the Council’s Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the Physiotherapist (see report of Principal School Medical Officer.)

During 1971, 128 infant welfare cases were dealt with at the Orthopaedic Clinic.

Day Care of Children

Day Nursery

Direct responsibility for the Authority’s Day Nursery and for the registration of Nurseries and Child Minders, etc. became the responsibility of the Social Services Department in 1971. However, the staff of the Health Department, (doctors and health visitors), continued to visit the various facilities with a view to giving advice.

The Care of Premature Infants

Since 1944 special efforts have been directed towards preserving life in premature and/or immature infants. The birth weight is stated on every notification of birth form, and in those cases born at home where the birth weight was 5lbs. 8 ozs. or less a special visit was immediately made by the Supervisor of Midwives, and, if, necessary, arrangements made for admission to hospital. For infants remaining at home, special carry cots fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, a Belcroy feeding bottle, room thermometers and hot water bottles are available, and have proved of value.

During 1971, 17 premature and/or immature babies were born at home, and 6 of these were transferred to Hospital. A further 142 were born in hospital, Particulars of these cases are given in Table M.C.W.15.

When these infants are discharged from hospital, or when the midwife has ceased to attend to those born at home, the Health Visitor concerned is immediately notified and pays special follow-up visits.

The Ambulance Service is equipped with a portable incubator which is used for the transport of premature infants to hospitals, and has also proved very useful in the work of inter-hospital transfers. Many of these infants are now admitted to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool as transfers from Cowley Hill Hospital. The incubator is, by agreement with the Hospital Authorities, kept at Cowley Hill Hospital and when a request for its use should arise, the incubator is plugged in and electrically heated to the required temperature before being plugged into the electrical system in the Ambulance where the temperature is maintained during transport.

The Care of Unsupported Mothers

Mothers expecting illegitimate children are often greatly in need of sympathetic advice and practical assistance which they are able to get from midwives and health visitors as well as the doctors responsible for their care. Prior to 1971 the Health Committee assisted with the payment of fees for placements in a number of Homes outside the town, but the provision of social work and financial assistance is now a responsibility of the Social Services Committee.

Hospital Accommodation

Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee was the only maternity hospital in St. Helens and had a complement of 50 beds and 5 special care cots. The Health Committee again protested against the intended closure of the hospital and an offer of ante-natal facilities for those women who might find it difficult to attend Whiston Hospital was made. I commented briefly on the Regional Hospital Board's proposal in my 1970 Report.

During 1971, 1,287 births (882 being St. Helens cases), took place in the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, 636 St. Helens births in the Whiston Hospital, Prescot and 80 St. Helens births occurred in other Hospitals.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of women discharged early</i>
1962	46
1963	152
1964	228
1965	244
1966	933
1967	1,139
1968	1,290
1969	1,244
1970	1,391
1971	1,415

Table M.C.W.15
PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS

Weight at Birth	Born at home or in a nursing home									
	Born In Hospital			Nursed entirely at home or in a nursing home			Born at home or in a nursing home			Transferred to hospital on or before 28th day
	Total births	Within 24 hours of birth	In 1 and under 7 days	Died	Total births	Within 24 hours of birth	In 1 and under 7 days	Died	Total births	
2 lb. 3 oz. or less	7	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Over 2 lb. 3 oz. up to and including 3 lb. 4 oz.	12	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	27	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	35	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	61	2	1	—	9	—	—	—	1	—
Totals:	142	17	3	—	11	—	—	—	6	—

X – MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Municipal Midwifery Service

The staff establishment of the Municipal Midwifery Service is one Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, 15 Full-time Midwives, and 1 Part-time (from 1/3/71).

During 1971 4 midwives attended Refresher Courses.

The midwives work from their own homes, and as far as their nursing duties are concerned, they are grouped in districts.

Midwives, however, are called out to attend deliveries by rotation, and they do not stay in their own districts. The rota system has brought about an improvement in the service, because on any one night two midwives are available on call for deliveries.

All calls for the services of a domiciliary midwife in St. Helens are taken by the Ambulance Depot, who contact the midwife on call immediately a request is made to them by any member of the public.

The Domiciliary Midwifery Service made increasing use of disposable equipment during the year and co-operation cards for the interchange of ante-natal information between the midwives and general practitioners continued during 1971.

Meetings of midwives for films and discussions were held regularly during the year.

The following table gives a summary of work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during 1971.

Number of cases attended	373
Number of live births (including one case of twins)	372
Number of still-births	1
Number of abortions	1
Number of cases delivered in Hospitals but discharged and attended by Domiciliary Midwives before the 10th day	1415
Number of visits to these early discharges	7491
Number of cases in which midwife sent for medical assistance	141
Supervisor's visits	271

The domiciliary midwives are all trained in the use of Trilene Anaesthesia and the use of Pethidine and other drugs. There are 17 Trilene apparatus in the Midwifery Service – one for each of the fifteen midwives and two which are kept at the Ambulance Station.

During the year Trilene was administered to 300 patients, and Pethidine to 224 patients.

During 1971, by arrangement with the Local Management Committee, 7 pupil midwives were trained by domiciliary midwives, all were successful in the examination.

The staffing level during the year continued to be satisfactory, as in the previous year, which allowed an extension of the attachment of midwives to general practitioners but it appeared possible that the limits of extension would soon be reached because of the impossibility of spreading the available midwives around a large number of general practitioners surgeries for their individual sessions.

The Table below shows the volume of work originating throughout the early discharge system which is now so firmly established. There was still evident a tendency of very early discharges to be increasing.

Early Discharge From Hospital, 1971

1971	Whiston Hospital	Cowley Hill Hospital	Others	Total No. of Patients Discharged Early	No. of Visits
January	39 (27)	82 (86)	5 (2)	126 (115)	634 (465)
February	43 (33)	71 (51)	4 (7)	118 (91)	621 (404)
March	39 (23)	67 (86)	9 (2)	115 (111)	633 (494)
April	53 (44)	78 (77)	6 (1)	137 (122)	758 (545)
May	55 (42)	77 (81)	3 (-)	135 (123)	793 (565)
June	28 (29)	42 (72)	5 (12)	75 (113)	381 (491)
July	60 (38)	91 (97)	7 (8)	158 (143)	872 (592)
August	34 (34)	55 (71)	7 (11)	96 (116)	481 (534)
September	53 (31)	64 (63)	2 (4)	119 (98)	596 (449)
October	45 (30)	63 (77)	9 (9)	117 (116)	595 (539)
November	36 (35)	64 (67)	8 (3)	108 (105)	588 (519)
December	45 (39)	61 (93)	5 (6)	111 (138)	539 (711)
Total:	530 (405)	815 (921)	70 (65)	1415 (1391)	7491(6308)

The figures in brackets are for 1970

Inspection of Midwives

During 1971, 36 midwives notified their intention to practice within the Borough. At the end of the year, 27 of these midwives were still practising within the Borough, and of these 16 were employed by the Local Health Authority, and 11 were engaged at the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out by Medical Officers and by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. During 1971, 74 visits were made to the Council's midwives by the Supervisor.

XI – HEALTH VISITING

The duties of the Health Visitors include the general health and welfare of the family as a whole, as well as the specialised duties connected with the School Health Services and the Care of Mothers and Young Children. This means that time is given to home visiting in connection with the welfare of old people, the follow-up of patients discharged home from hospital, enquiries regarding home conditions of mothers requesting confinement in hospital, in addition to the routine and special visits required to be paid to mothers and young children under school age, and home visits directly connected with School Medical Inspections.

The Health Visitors also staff the various Ante-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare Clinics in the Borough, and are in attendance at the School Medical Inspections.

The health visiting service continued under strength but nevertheless staffing continued slowly and sporadically to improve. There is a Specialist Health Visitor working with handicapped children and all Health Visitors are attached on a rotating basis to the Paediatric Out-Patient Clinic at St. Helens Hospital. A Health Visitor in attendance at this clinic is of assistance in providing liaison with the Health Department and other agencies in the town and therefore can see that the necessary services are provided to the patients and that there is a flow of useful information to the paediatrician. Several Health Visitors continued in liaison working with groups of general practitioners (see 1970 Report).

The Specialist Health Visitor arranged a display of clothing by the Disabled Living Foundation which was seen by our staff and the staff of the Social Services Department, and a 1½ day R.O.S.P.A. Symposium on Home Safety was arranged at the Town Hall, primarily for Home Helps but attended by a variety of other staff also.

The following statement shows the cases visited by Health Visitors during the year:

To children born in 1971	1,992
To children born in 1970	2,050
To children born in 1966/1969	4,817
To persons aged 65 or over	813
To mentally disordered persons	36
To other persons excluding Maternity cases discharged from Hospital	62
Number of tuberculous households visited	30
Number of households visited on account of other infectious diseases	468
Other cases	464
Total:	10,732

XII – HOME NURSING SERVICE

In my 1970 Report I discussed at some length the proposed integration of the nursing services provided by the St. Helens District Nursing Association into the local authority services. During 1971 the service was still provided by the Association on an agency basis as previously but steps continued to be made towards the integration — haste was not necessary. Application was made by the authority to the Department of Health and Social Security for the necessary amendment of its proposals to provide a Home Nursing Service as required by the National Health Service Act, 1946 — this was duly given. The nurses themselves were made eligible for essential user car allowances and therefore for participation in the Corporation's car loan scheme and they were given the opportunity of buying the vehicles then being used for the service. Some nurses walked, some rode bicycles and some rode

in cars, often in pairs. However, the vehicles were not getting younger and it would not have been in accordance with the Corporation's normal policy to provide cars for the use of staff. Bearing in mind, therefore, that looking ahead to attachment to general practice a much more mobile staff would be necessary to cover the work, then it was hoped by this means to achieve a considerable increase in the number of cars available for the transport of district nurses. In fact, these measures were successful and there was a considerable increase in the number of vehicles provided, 8 of which were bought by the nurses from the original fleet of 10. The appointment of a Chief Nursing Officer to oversee the necessary integration procedures seemed very necessary to me (and for many other reasons also) but the appointment made was only to become effective from the beginning of 1972.

The staff in post at the end of the year was as follows:—

- 1 Superintendent
- 1 Assistant Superintendent
- 1 Senior District Nurse
- 15 District Nurses (Full-Time)
- 6 District Nurses (Part-Time)

Number of cases attended and visits made by Home Nurses during 1971

<i>Nature of Illness</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Medical	1,453	51,094
Surgical	256	7,619
Infectious Diseases	—	—
Tuberculosis	2	21
Maternal Complications	138	1,506
Others	29	357
Total:	1,878	60,597
Patients (included in above totals) who were		
65 years or over	1,018	39,277
Children (included in above totals) who were		
under 5 years of age	18	223
Patients (included in above totals) who had		
more than 24 visits during the year	498	47,455

XIII – INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Other Foods

The inspection and supervision of all meat at the Public Abattoir is carried out by qualified public health inspectors.

Table S.I.1
Carcases Inspected During 1971

	PUBLIC ABATTOIR					
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
Number killed	3996	1800	10	4893	—	42931
Number inspected	3996	1800	10	4893	—	42931
Condemned:						
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
(i) Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	923	845	—	932	—	18485
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.10%	46.94%	10%	19.04%	—	43.4%
(b) Tuberculosis only:						
(i) Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	18
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	0.24%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table S.I.1 gives details of the results of such inspection.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, 15 slaughtermen's licences were renewed for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

At the end of the year, 163 premises were registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish, or other food intended for the purpose of sale.

Food Hygiene

The Food Hygiene Inspectors examined 53 plans concerned with the construction or alteration of food premises. When necessary, the architect was contacted and agreement reached on the modification of plans to ensure compliance with current legislation.

It is a system appreciated by many of those involved, frequently saving subsequent expensive alterations to premises.

Fifteen suspected cases of food poisoning were investigated during the year and one proved to be Positive Salmonella Indiana. Success in determining the origin of infection rests greatly on prompt notification.

Routine inspection of all food premises continued during the year. In many cases, on the spot verbal warnings were given, followed by a brief explanation as to the correct procedure to be employed.

The education of food handlers in the sound handling, storage and display of food is a continuous process as each year many school leavers enter the food trade.

Only by constant and repeated visits to food premises of all classes can standards be maintained. The work of the Food Hygiene Inspector continues to increase and take on new facets.

The increase in the use of containers for the transportation of food continues and its impact is felt in the Borough as more containers arrive without inspection at the place of entry.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing plants in the Borough.

The sale of poultry, cooked and uncooked, is kept under regular observation.

Bakehouses

There are twenty-eight bakehouses in St. Helens and mechanical power is employed in all instances.

Two hundred and fifty-seven visits of inspection to these premises were made during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Washing Facilities

The following table indicates the position in regard to the provision of washing facilities in food premises in the Borough.

Type of Premises	No.	No. complying with Reg.16	No. to which Reg.19 applies	No. complying with Reg.19
Grocer/General Shops	310	302	302	309
Sweet Shops	68	65	—	29
Butchers Shops	77	77	77	77
Confectioners	52	52	52	52
Greengrocers/Wet Fish	66	65	66	66
Registered Clubs	69	69	69	69
Licenced Premises	162	162	162	162
Fried Fish Shops	81	81	81	81
Snack Bars – Cafes	43	43	43	43
Industrial Canteens	47	47	47	47
School Canteens	52	52	52	52
Food Preparing Premises	20	20	20	23
Food Warehouses	23	23	23	23
Market Stalls	43	17	—	15
Bakehouses	28	28	28	28
Ice Cream Manufacturers	3	3	3	3

Premises registered under Local Acts

The following are particulars of food premises in the Borough registered under local Acts, together with numbers of inspections made in respect of each of these classes of premises:

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
(a) St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, Section 127. Premises used for the preparation and manufacture of Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Meat, Fish or Other Foods.	163	1509

continued.

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
(b) St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, Section 133		
(1) Premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream.	3	88
(2) Premises used for the sale of ice cream	183	1,114
(c) St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948, Section 47. Premises used by Hawkers of food as storage accommodation.	72	29

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders

Infringements of the Merchandise Marks Orders were dealt with by verbal warning.

Food Hawkers

Section 47 of the St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948, requires the registration of any person (other than a person keeping open shop) who sells, offers or exposes for sale food from any vehicle or receptacle. The section also requires the registration of storage accommodation for any food intended for any of these purposes.

At the end of the year seventy-seven persons and seventy-two separate premises were registered under this section.

A total of 898 inspections were made to Hawkers vehicles.

As a routine measure during the year, night excursions were made to various districts in the Borough to locate and inspect mobile shops. Verbal warning proved on subsequent inspections to be effective.

Disposal of Food Surrendered as Unfit to the Local Authority

Foodstuffs surrendered voluntarily to the Local Authority which are found to be unfit for human consumption are dealt with by treatment with disinfectant for the purpose of rendering them unmarketable and along with canned goods are conveyed to the Municipal refuse tip and buried.

Strict supervision is maintained.

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs examined by the Food Hygiene Inspectors during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption.

	lbs.
Meat	124,497
Canned Goods	11,213
Fish	368
Vegetables and Fruit	986
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	465
Total:	137,529

Foreign Bodies

During the year twenty-seven complaints were received from members of the public regarding foreign material in foodstuffs.

Each case was investigated in detail, the seller, and where applicable the manufacturer, interviewed

When responsibility could be fairly ascertained the individual firm was cautioned of the consequences of any repetition.

St. Helens Show

Prior consultations with intending food stall proprietors were carried out to ensure that satisfactory hygiene standards would be observed.

Site visits by Public Health Inspectors prior to, and during, show days were carried out to confirm that such standards were maintained.

There were forty-one food stalls on the showground ranging from the main refreshment tents selling full meals to ice cream and hot dog vendors.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

At the end of the year there were registered under these Regulations:

- 6 persons as distributors of milk from dairy premises;
- 230 persons as distributors of milk in sealed bottles or cartons only from shops; and
- 6 premises as dairies.

Most of the milk received into dairy premises in St. Helens is delivered to those premises in sealed bottles or cartons. The administration of these Regulations does not now, therefore, constitute a serious problem.

Public Health Inspectors paid 1,533 visits to these types of premises during the year.

MILK (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963
The Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1965

The following licences were in operation during the year under these Regulations:

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "STERILISED"	264
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED"	204
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "ULTRA HEAT TREAT-ED"	68

Biological Examination of Milk

In the routine examination of milk supplies 8 samples were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All were reported negative. 8 samples were also examined for brucella abortus. One sample, the product of a herd outside the Borough, was found to be positive; this authority was notified. A further sample was reported negative. During the year approximately 260 pints of untreated milk, farm bottled, were sold daily within the Borough.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

In addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 8 samples of untreated milk were also taken for the methylene blue reduction test. The results of these examinations showed that all the samples were satisfactory.

One hundred and thirty-five samples of pasteurised milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. Two samples failed to satisfy the test.

Examination of Milk for the presence of Phosphatase

One hundred and thirty-five samples of milk were also examined during the year for the presence of phosphatase. All samples satisfied the test.

Turbidity Test for Sterilised Milk

During the year forty-seven samples were submitted for this test. All were reported to be satisfactory.

Colony Count for Ultra Heat Treated Milk

One sample was taken for this test. This was reported satisfactory.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme

All milk supplied to schools is contained in wax paper cartons. No complaints were received during the year.

Bacteriological Examination of Fresh Cream

Eleven samples of cream were obtained for bacteriological examination.

Two samples of cream were reported unsatisfactory. As the cream in many cases is double pasteurised an unsatisfactory result should be a rarity provided that transport and storage are satisfactory.

Ice Cream Premises

The following are the particulars at the end of the year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream and the premises used by them:

Manufacturers and Vendors	3
Vendors only	223
Premises for manufacture and sale	3
Premises for sale only	210

The 223 vendors mentioned above sell ice cream in wrapped packages only.

Ninety-four samples of ice-cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test. These samples were taken from manufacturers and vendors whose premises are situate both inside and outside the Borough.

Results of Ice Cream Sampling

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Producers outside the Borough	15	2	1	—
Producers inside the Borough	59	14	2	1
Total:	74	16	3	1

Soft Ice Cream Samples

One vendor of ice cream whose vehicle was found on inspection to be below the standard of cleanliness required was advised to present himself and his vehicle in a satisfactory condition at the Public Health Inspector's Office within two hours. This he did with satisfying results and for three days of that week he stayed behind at his supplier's premises until his vehicle had been re-inspected by the Public Health Inspector. This was a lesson he will not forget easily; it also had a salutary effect on his colleagues.

Night excursions were again made to find these mobile producers, none of whom reside or have their place of business within the Borough.

Twenty-nine samples of lolly ices were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and were reported to be satisfactory.

The comparator test with litmus paper was applied during the year to twenty-nine samples of ice lollies as a check on their P.H. value.

All vehicles used for the sale of ice cream are provided with satisfactory supplies of hot water at a suitably controlled temperature and suitable washing facilities, soap, nailbrush and clean towels.

1,114 visits were made to ice cream premises in 1971.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

During 1971, fifty formal samples and three hundred and seventy-six informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Of these two samples were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Follow-up samples were obtained and these were found to be satisfactory. No further action was required.

Sixty-eight samples of drugs were obtained and found to be satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

Two samples of liquid egg, produce of Australia and South Africa respectively, were sampled for the purpose of analysis by the Public Analyst and were found to satisfy the Alpha-Amylase test.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

Imported liquid egg was in use in six bakehouses during the year, the majority of bakers using whole shell eggs.

Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962

All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, were also examined for the presence of preservatives.

Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

No samples of fertilizer were taken under the above Act during the year.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933

At the end of the year there were 20 persons entered in the Local Authority's list

of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 37.

Two hundred and forty-nine visits were made to these premises and no infringements of the Act were found.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1961

No infringements of this Act were found during the year.

The Canned Meat Product Regulations 1967

Twenty-six samples of canned meat products were obtained during the year for analysis by the Public Analyst, and all satisfied the requirements of the Regulations.

The Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations 1967

Fifty samples of pies and ten samples of sausage rolls were obtained for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Two of the pie samples were reported to be unsatisfactory. Follow-up samples satisfied the requirements of the Regulations. The manufacturers were advised in each case.

Results of analysis of samples:

Product	Meat Content	Product	Meat Content
Meat Pies	19.4%	Sausage Rolls	29.2%
Meat Pies	19.8%	Sausage Rolls	22.3%
Potato & Meat Pies	19.6%	Sausage Rolls	14.5%
Meat Pies	18.2%	Sausage Rolls	36.6%
Meat Pies	23.9%	Sausage Rolls	19.1%
Meat Pies	26.4%	Sausage Rolls	24.4%
Meat Pies	26.9%	Sausage Rolls	19.2%
Meat Pies	22.4%	Sausage Rolls	22.5%
Potato & Meat Pies	10.3%	Sausage Rolls	43.1%
Meat Pies	18.9%	Sausage Rolls	22.3%
Potato & Meat Pies	8.5%	Meat Pies	22.4%
Meat Pies	36.6%	Meat Pies	24.5%
Meat Pies	22.3%	Meat Pies	23.2%
Meat Pies	19.5%	Meat Pies	20.3%
Potato & Meat Pies	4.5%	Meat Pies	21.6%
Meat Pies	25.9%	Meat Pies	22.7%
Meat Pies	20.4%	Potato & Meat Pies	14.3%
Potato & Meat Pies	6.4%	Meat Pies	28.7%
Meat Pies	29.6%	Potato & Meat Pies	15.3%
Meat Pies	28.5%	Meat Pies	32.5%
Meat Pies	25.6%	Meat Pies	22.4%
Meat Pies	45.1%	Potato & Meat Pies	7.8%
Meat Pies	19.0%	Meat Pies	10.6%
Potato & Meat Pies	10.6%	Meat Pies	19.5%
Meat Pies	20.5%	Meat Pies	18.5%
Meat Pies	39.6%	Potato & Meat Pies	10.8%

continued

Product	Meat Content	Product	Meat Content
Meat Pies	25.6%	Meat Pies	25.1%
Potato & Meat Pies	19.4%	Meat Pies	21.9%
Meat Pies	30.8%	Meat Pies	12.5%
Meat Pies	25.7%	Meat Pies	25.3%

The Sausage and Other Meat Products Regulations 1967

Sixty samples of sausages were obtained for analysis by the Public Analyst. All were found to satisfy the requirements of the Regulations.

Results of analysis of sausage samples:—

Lean Meat Content	Total Meat Content	Lean Meat Content	Total Meat Content
37.5%	70.4%	52.4%	68.7%
49.5%	72.6%	38.9%	62.4%
38.2%	70.9%	46.0%	71.8%
36.8%	59.3%	44.6%	71.4%
55.7%	71.6%	38.8%	75.3%
48.4%	73.3%	29.1%	55.7%
65.8%	89.5%	53.6%	78.0%
43.3%	75.4%	53.5%	72.1%
49.5%	72.9%	66.5%	95.3%
50.6%	85.5%	35.8%	61.1%
39.5%	75.1%	41.5%	57.1%
36.7%	67.2%	48.4%	66.6%
60.6%	81.6%	54.2%	83.1%
58.2%	67.8%	48.0%	70.2%
49.2%	10.6%	52.4%	74.2%
43.6%	58.3%	66.7%	82.7%
30.9%	59.5%	49.4%	76.3%
68.5%	76.7%	35.4%	67.4%
50.7%	65.4%	47.3%	71.9%
34.7%	72.7%	46.7%	62.3%
58.8%	71.4%	55.3%	83.3%
48.6%	69.9%	47.4%	63.5%
43.1%	70.1%	43.6%	71.2%
51.4%	67.0%	42.5%	67.6%
52.6%	71.5%	46.0%	71.7%
31.3%	53.3%	55.3%	82.1%
57.5%	76.8%	62.5%	75.6%
42.8%	68.1%	43.7%	74.1%
45.7%	66.6%	45.2%	68.1%
46.6%	68.0%	33.0%	59.8%

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

Tuberculosis Order, 1964

No cases under this order were reported during the year.

Anthrax

No suspected cases of Anthrax were reported during the year.

Swine Fever

No cases of suspected Swine Fever were reported during the year.

Foot and Mouth Disease

No cases of Foot and Mouth Disease were reported during the year.

Fowl Pest

No cases of Fowl Pest were reported during the year.

XIV – SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**Water**

A further borehole supply with a yield of .217 m.g.d. (987 Ml/d) has been developed at Eccleston Park during the year. This supply is pumped into Eccleston Hill Reservoir where it is blended with water from the Rivington Bulk Supply and Whiston Pumping Station.

The following mains have been laid during 1971:

<i>Site Location</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Length in Yards</i>
Sandringham Drive	4"	24
Four Acre Lane (Council development)	3"	72
	4"	48
	6"	60
Bodden Street (Private development)	4"	390
	6"	100
(Council development)	4"	268
	6"	86
Millfields (Mains extensions)	6"	227
Fire Station (Millfields)	3"	18
Laffak Road (Private development)	3"	32
	6"	30
Scholes Lane (Council development)	4"	264
New Street (Private development)	3"	132
Alder Hey Road (Private development)	3"	143
Mill Lane (Mains diversions)	4"	50
Scholes Lane (Private development)	4"	100
Hartford Street (Industrial development)	6"	60
Leach Lane (Private development)	3"	40
<i>continued.</i>	4"	452

<i>Site Location</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Length in Yards</i>
Boardmans Lane (Mains diversions)	10"	30
New Street (Private development)	2"	179
	4"	940
	6"	710
Gamble Avenue (Council Hostel)	2"	30
Kendal Drive (Council development)	3"	20
Eltonhead Road (Mains renewals)	3"	12
Peasley Cross Road (Council development)	3"	80
	4"	48
Barrow Street (Council development)	4"	40
Four Acre Lane (Private development) (UNIT)	4"	40
Lindale Avenue (Private development)	6"	18
City Road (Mains extensions)	6"	30
Reginald Road (Industrial development)	12"	180
Laffak Road (Mains Extensions)	4"	14
	10"	35
	12"	605
Chain Lane (Private development)	3"	8
	4"	402
Fleet Lane (Council development)	4"	16
Four Acre Lane (Private development) (WIMPEY)	2"	360
	3"	720
	4"	715
	6"	500
Mill Brow (Private development)	3"	12
Merton Bank Site (Private development)	3"	250
	6"	260
Leach Lane (Private development)	4"	308
Gaskell Street (Mains extensions)	8"	196
	12"	216
Manor Street (Council development)	3"	90
Sutton Heath Site (Private development)	2"	179
	3"	359
	4"	640
	6"	297

The supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year.

The number of bacteriological analyses taken during 1971-72 was 633, of which 586 were of treated water and 47 of raw water. Of the treated water samples 95% were free from coliforms and 98% were free from Type 1 Faecal coli. A further 115 samples were taken for full chemical analysis.

There are no dwellinghouses in the St. Helens area which obtain their water supply by means of a standpipe.

Some 34,178 dwelling houses in the Borough (population 104,050) were supplied direct from public water mains throughout the year. There are no stand pipes in the area.

In addition, 69 samples of tap water were obtained by Public Health Inspectors for bacteriological examination.

These were procured from all types of food preparation premises and dwelling-houses. All were reported satisfactory.

Lead Determination

Eleven samples of tap water were submitted to the Public Analyst for lead content determination.

Source	Result	Observations
1. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 7.1 Lead Content 0.09 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample is higher than the W.H.O. recommended limit.
2. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 6.9 Lead Content 0.04 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
3. Y.M.C.A. Youth Hostel	P.H. Value 7.3 Lead Content 0.02 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
4. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 6.7 Lead Content 0.05 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
5. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 7.4 Lead Content less than 0.02 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
6. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 6.6 Lead Content 0.03 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
7. Workmens Hut	P.H. Value 7.0 Lead Content 0.03 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
8. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 7.3 Lead Content 0.01 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
9. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 7.0 Lead Content 0.01 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
10. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 6.7 Lead Content 0.04 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.
11. Dwellinghouse	P.H. Value 6.8 Lead Content 0.03 p.p.m.	The concentration of lead in this sample does not exceed the acceptable limits.

The results of the tap water sample showing a high concentration of lead was notified to the Water Engineer who advised by letter all occupiers of dwelling-houses on the same supply, numbering four in all, suggesting that overnight water or water held for some hours in the supply pipe should be run to waste for a few minutes before use.

Fluoridation

Despite support from local doctors, dentists and the Executive Council, the Health Committee decided in 1969 not to fluoridate the water supply – disappointing to myself. The subject was not further considered by the Committee in 1971.

Being conscious that the subject would be bound to be considered again at some later date and that there were no published figures of the natural fluoride content of the water supplies, arrangements were made with the Water Department for analysis to be undertaken of all the separate sources of water supply to the town. In all of them the fluoride content was found to be less than 0.1 ppm., i.e. less than one tenth of the level (1.0 ppm.) considered desirable for the prevention of dental decay.

Rivers and Streams

The supervision of rivers and streams in St. Helens is carried out by the Mersey and Weaver River Board.

Water Hardness and Health

It has long been suggested that soft water supplies are associated with a greater adult mortality, particularly from cardiovascular disease, but the evidence is inconsistent. In 1971, Crawford, Gardner and Morris published a report strongly supporting this notion by indicating that there was a tendency for towns which had softened their water supply to have an increased incidence of cardio-vascular disease. Again the evidence was not entirely consistent, and there have since been suggestions that the association is not causal, particularly when considering naturally hard or soft waters. The infant mortality rate also appears to increase with water softness, but this is subject to the same observations.

A letter from the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health had suggested that there was insufficient cause to stop any action now being taken to artificially soften water supply, but that there might be felt to be sufficient justification to consider very carefully whether further softening should be undertaken. This was discussed with the Water Engineer and in essence we agreed with this attitude.

It should be noted that St. Helens' water is only slightly hard - moderately soft. Artificial softening of water is undertaken for many good reasons and is generally appreciated by domestic and commercial consumers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year work has proceeded on the following schemes:

DRAINAGE

Infiltration Survey

Completed, shows infiltration in all areas of the Borough.

Sutton Manor W.P.C.W. — Transfer of treatment to Parr W.P.C.W.

Documents relating to proposal to construct the trunk sewer between Sutton Manor W.P.C.W. and Ashcroft Street have been forwarded to the Department of the Environment and a decision is awaited.

Parr W.P.C.W. — Proposed Extensions

Details submitted to Department of the Environment for approval.

Reginald Road

The surface water sewer discharging to Sutton Mill Brook is now complete and operational.

Park Road

The surface water sewer discharging to Rainford Brook serving the redevelopment and proposed dual carriageway is complete and operational.

College Street

Design is in an advanced stage to provide a new surface water sewer and a new combined sewer to replace the existing combined sewer which is in poor condition and has collapsed on several occasions.

Kiln Lane Intercepting Sewer

Preliminary investigations are in progress to find a method of relieving this heavily overloaded sewer.

Islands Brow

In conjunction with the carriageway improvement, a new surface water sewer will be constructed to discharge to St. Helens Canal and a new foul sewer will be constructed to convey the discharge from Pilkington's burgy banks via a recorder house into the Corporation's Haresfinch Intercepting Sewer.

Leach Lane

Following negotiations with the N.C.B. a new combined sewer has been laid in Leach Lane between Gerards Lane and Abbotts Farm to replace the old sewer which had been badly affected by mining subsidence.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1971 there were still in use 13 privy middens serving 19 premises, and 44 pail closets serving 34 premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

After further purchases the entire operational fleet of refuse collection vehicles is of the compression type. Further installation of bulk refuse containers has now brought the total in use to 241.

Refuse Disposal

100% of domestic refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the present site at Southport Street. It is anticipated that this site will be closed down in the near future when operations will then be transferred to the clay-hole at Chester Lane.

Public Conveniences

There is no improvement in the incidence of vandalism to these establishments. Haresfinch and Derbyshire Hill Public Conveniences are still unopened.

Street Cleansing

There are three mechanical sweepers in use. A small gully emptier for use in paved areas and the narrower passages has been purchased making the total of gully emptying vehicles now four (4).

Civic Amenities

A multi-lift vehicle has been purchased to remove and replace containers used by the public at four sites and also for disposal of market refuse which is stored in four special containers. Another container is in use at the Central Depot at Hardshaw Brook.

Taylor Park Paddling Pool

Nine samples of water were taken from the pool for bacteriological examination.

It was found necessary to empty and refill the pool with Towns Water and to add measured quantities of a sterilising agent from time to time during the summer months.

Swimming Baths

Mechanical filters (large pool) have been overhauled. Bacteriological samples are satisfactory.

In addition, 16 samples were taken by Public Health Inspectors from the Public Baths and School baths and proved to be satisfactory.

Atmospheric Pollution

For the measurement of atmospheric pollution in St. Helens, the following observation stations are now maintained:

Albion Street Clinic	8-port Valve Smoke and SO ₂ Sampler.
Public Health Inspector's Office, Hardshaw Street	do.
Carr Mill Clinic	do.
Sutton Library	do.
Thatto Heath Library	do.
Jersey Street Clinic	do.

The first three stations are maintained in conjunction with the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution being investigated by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. 524 observations were taken of industrial chimneys during the year.

Smoke Control

Further progress was made during 1971 on the Council's programme for declaring smoke control areas despite continuing staffing shortages.

At 31st December 1971 there were nine operative Smoke Control Orders in the Borough comprising 10,348 dwellings, 777 commercial, industrial and other premises covering an area of 4,052 acres.

During the year preparations were in progress for the introduction of the proposed St. Helens No. 8 Smoke Control Area containing 4,972 dwellings, 286 commercial, industrial and other premises covering an area of 833.6 acres, and it was hoped to represent this area early in 1971.

Factories

A total of 318 visits of inspection were made to factories during 1971.

Table S.I.2 gives particulars of the administrative action taken under the Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

Table S.I.2

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	250	317	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding out- worker's premises	—	—	—	—
Total:	256	318	1	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	by H.M. Inspec- tor	by H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	6	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total:	8	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133				Section 134	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 113(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-making, etc.	10	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	—	—	—	—	—

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The total number of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors was 66,719 The nature of these inspections is shown in Table S.I.3, and Table S.I.4 contains a list of notices served and the results of such notices.

TABLE S.I.3
Number and Nature of Inspections made during 1971

Complaints investigated	2,579
Dwellinghouses inspected	7,844
Visits to work in progress	4,107
Overcrowding, including permitted numbers	156
Common Lodging Houses	14
Houses in multi-occupation	4
Pigstyes	43
Waste Foods Order	—
Middensteads	—
Ashes Receptacles	1
Conversions	—
Insufficient Water Supply	—
Public Sanitary Conveniences	4
Places of Public Entertainment	59
Tents, Vans and Sheds	2
Hairdressers and Barbers' Premises	104
Brokers	25
Smoke Observations	524
Boilerhouses and Furnaces	144
Drager Tests	11
Atmospheric Pollution Gauges	323
Tips and Spoilbanks	26

Table S.I.3 *continued.*

Vermin Infestation	8,374
Rodent Infestation	8,342
Testing Drains:	
By Smoke	27
By Coloured Water	15
By Breaking Down	12
Factories Act, 1961:	
With Mechanical Power	426
Without Mechanical Power	38
Outworkers	9
Food-Hygiene:	
Bakehouses	257
Confectioners	1,206
Sweet Shops	1,375
Fried Fish Shops	427
Fishmongers Shops	513
Greengrocers Shops	1,538
Butchers Shops	1,479
Grocers and General Shops	2,011
Canteens	557
Restaurants	161
Cafes	307
Public Houses, Licensed Clubs	1,180
Food Preparing and Storage Places	2,230
Food Hawkers Premises	29
Food Hawkers Vans	898
Food Poisoning Enquiries	213
Visits re Unfit Food	208
Dairies and Milk Shops	1,533
Ice Cream Premises	1,114
Market Stalls	1,087
Samples:	
Milk	179
Ice Cream	88
Ice Lollies	29
Other Foods	14
Water	101
Food and Drugs	403
Milk	46
Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Samples	3
Pesticide Residues Samples	—
Frozen Whole Hen egg	2
Fresh Cream	6
Lead Determination — water samples	11
Merchandise Marks Act	757
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	240

Table S.I.3 continued.

Schools	17
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	2,311
Slum Clearance Premises	241
Certificates of Disrepair:	
Inspections	15
Re-Inspections	4
Improvement Grants:	
Discretionary Grant	334
Standard Grant	144
Re-Inspections	702
Qualification Certificates	611
Smoke Control Areas:	
Inspections	1,235
Re-Inspections	35
Improvement Areas:	
Inspections	43
Re-Inspections	16
Noise Observations	273
Dust Observations	83
Asbestos Regulations	—
Pet Animals Act	9
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	2
Miscellaneous (Interviews, etc.)	7,191
Chemists	34
Midden Conversions	—
Mines and Quarries Act	—
Swimming Baths	4
Total:	66,719

Table S.I.4

Number of defects for which notices were served during 1971, and notices complied with during the year (including outstanding notices from previous year).

Subject of Notices	DEFECTS		
	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices	Number complied with
Defective Woodwork, Plaster or Walls, Ceilings, etc.	579	376	409
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eaves, gutters, rainwater pipes and pointing and D.P.C.	687	480	515
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	353	121	331
Absence of proper sink	12	6	7

Table S.I.4
(continued)

Subject of Notices	DEFECTS		
	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices	Number complied with
Unsatisfactory yard paving	13	9	12
Filthy or verminous condition of premises	14	—	3
Accumulation of manure and offensive matter	40	15	12
Other housing defects	216	142	141
Excessive emissions of smoke	5	6	1
Miscellaneous	53	4	18
Contravention of:			
Factories Act, 1961	1	—	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960	158	—	373
Unauthorised use of land for camping purposes	—	—	—
Clean Air Act, 1956 and 1968	—	—	—
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	183	—	122
Totals:	2,304	1,159	1,944

Referred to other departments:—

To Borough Engineer

Choked or defective sewers	4
Choked or defective street gullies	20
Accumulation of refuse	76
Dangerous structures	98
Defective street paving	3
Flooding	—
Miscellaneous	22

To Housing Manager

Choked drains and housing defects	205
Flooding	—
Overcrowding	—
Accumulation of refuse	1
Dirty conditions	—
Miscellaneous	4

To Water Engineer

Waste of water	38
Defective supply pipe	1
Other defects	1

To Director of Education

Choked or Defective Drains	7
--------------------------------------	---

Choked Drains

During the year 345 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 329 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Public Health Inspector's Department thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades carried on in the Borough.

Houses in Multi-Occupation

There are 38 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-lodgings.

Common Lodging Houses

There is now only one common lodging house in the Borough.

This is owned by the Council and administered on their behalf by the Salvation Army. This accommodation was purchased and improved by the Authority to set a high standard.

During the year 14 visits of inspection were made to the common lodging house.

Further discussions were held with the Salvation Army on the provision of a new hostel to replace the existing common lodging house which is in the Central Re-Development Area. The architect carried out the design work during the year.

Hairdressers and Barbers

There were at the end of the year 130 persons registered as hairdressers or barbers and the number of premises registered was 125.

104 visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year.

Byelaws with respect to Nuisances

These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. There were 17 persons in the Borough known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs, at the end of the year. 43 visits of inspection were made to pig styes during the year.

St. Helens Corporation (Electricity & General Powers) Act, 1948. Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Two hundred and seventy-three observations and interviews were made during the investigation of complaints of nuisances from noise during 1971.

Noise complaints during the year resulted from:

1. Alleged noise from neighbours television set.
2. Noise from machinery in a small factory built on the end of a terraced block of houses. Factory extended working hours to late evenings for a short period.
3. Noise from diesel fork lift trucks working on night shift in a factory close to residential property.
4. Worn water pump in a coin operated laundrette causing noise in the adjoining house.
5. Alleged noise from guard dog in industrial premises resulting in complaints from a house over 200 yards distant.
6. Noise from loudspeakers used on the pavement outside a music shop for advertising purposes.
7. Alleged noise problem from “pop” group practising in a house and causing complaints from one neighbouring house.
8. Noise in a residential area from the commissioning of new industrial plant in an adjoining factory.
9. Noise from scrap material in recovery plant on the roof of a new factory close to residential property.
10. Noise from a “pop” group practising in a house at night causing complaints from numerous neighbours.
11. Noise from steam discharge from safety valves on large boiler house early in the morning.
12. Noise from laundry machinery causing complaints from adjoining house.
13. Alleged noise problem from builders machinery operating on a building site near newly occupied houses.
14. Noise from compressor used in a factory near residential property.
15. Alleged noise problem from fan in a shop in the middle of a block of terraced houses.
16. Noise from steam discharge from a large factory during starting up procedures.

17. Noise from joinery machinery in a factory opposite terraced houses.
18. Noise from new equipment at a factory close to residential property — plant run before silencers fitted.
19. Noise from pump used in a large factory causing complaints from houses over 200 yards away.
20. Alleged noise from heavy road vehicles passing residential property.

Most of the above problems were cured after informal discussions with the management or persons responsible. Some required technical solutions, others were remedied by simple adjustments or instructions to staff.

During the year a great deal of time was spent in ensuring that a new large industrial plant could run on a 24 hour basis without affecting nearby residents. Although the manufacturers had been given specific noise limits to work to, a lot of additional expensive modifications had to be carried out to enable the plant to run quietly. A very close liaison was set up between the Public Health Inspector and the firms own Acoustic Engineer involving the free exchange of information and noise readings. This contact has since been continued during the investigation of other problems on the same site.

Waste Food Order, 1957

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1958

Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1968

Routine inspections of these premises continued.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Table S.I.5 gives particulars of the work carried out under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

Table S.I.5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for year ended 31st December, 1971

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than Sewers		
1. Number of properties in district	39760	50
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	1281	—
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	544	—
(ii) Mice	462	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	822	1
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	81	1
(ii) Mice	27	—
Sewers		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	Yes	

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The operation of the above-mentioned Act took up a large proportion of the time of the Public Health Inspectorate in 1971. 2,311 visits of all kinds were paid by Inspectors to registered premises. Included in this total are 1,387 general inspections.

Table S.I.4a

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year
Offices	5	236	236
Retail Shops	10	609	609
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	41	41
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	140	140
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals:	18	1026	1026

Places of Public Entertainment

59 visits were paid to places of public entertainment during 1971. The condition of these premises throughout the year was found to be generally satisfactory.

Mortuaries

A Public Mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During the year 259 bodies were received into the mortuary and 236 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

Arrangements for the Disposal of the Dead

At the end of the year there were 16.883 acres of land available for burials at the Borough Cemetery. Of the land adjoining the cemetery available for extension purposes, 15.33 acres are available for future earth burials. During the year there were 1,167 cremations, making a total of 6,562 since the Crematorium was opened.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Owing to the continued shortage of Public Health Inspectors, no samples of rag flock or other filling materials were taken during the year.

Housing Acts 1957 to 1969 – Slum Clearance

Slum Clearance work continued with the three year programme commenced in 1970 progressing satisfactorily, in accordance with the anticipated time schedule.

The St. Helens (Westfield Street 1 and 2) Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed in July 1971 and the St. Helens (Westfield Street 3 to 6), Compulsory Order was confirmed in September, 1971.

Under these orders 551 properties will be demolished and 536 dwellings will be required to re-house the persons displaced.

During the year three Clearance Areas were represented to the Health Committee – The King Street Clearance Area comprising 205 houses and the Napier Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas comprising 293 houses.

Consequent thereon the Council made the following orders – The St. Helens (King Street) Compulsory Purchase Order and the St. Helens (Napier Street Nos. 1 and 2) Compulsory Purchase Order.

No Closing Orders were made during the year.

Undertakings to demolish were accepted from the owners of 9 houses and no certificates of unfitness were given in respect of houses owned by the Local Authority.

Work was commenced on the inspection of properties within the Crossley Road No. 2 Clearance Area with a view to representing this area to the Health Committee in 1971.

In addition to the continuing surveying of properties suitable for inclusion in future clearance schemes, surveys were undertaken on the assessment of properties for their suitability for inclusion in proposed General Improvement Areas.

Demolition and re-housing continued during the year as follows:—

	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Persons Rehoused</i>	<i>Families Rehoused</i>
1. Clearance Areas	337	718	279
2. Undertakings to demolish from owners	4	22	9
3. Houses owned by the Local Authority	—	—	—
Total:	341	740	288

67 families in Clearance Areas found their own accommodation.

XV — HOUSING

Housing

(1) Number of dwellinghouses erected during 1971 in the various wards of the Borough.

	<i>N.E.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>N.W.</i>	<i>S.W.</i>	<i>H.</i>	<i>E.S.</i>	<i>W.S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>M.B.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Local Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	66	39	60	251
Private Enterprise	2	7	1	2	—	—	143	289	236	2	682

(2) Total number of houses completed during the year within the Borough:

(a) with State assistance under Housing Acts	
(i) Local Authority in Borough	251
(ii) Private Enterprise	—
(b) without State assistance	
(i) Local Authority	—
(ii) Private Enterprise	682

Housing Act, 1949 and 1969 – Improvement Grants and Areas

Inspections for Discretionary Improvement Grants and Standard Grants continued to be carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. 225 applications for Discretionary Grants and 51 for Standard Grants were dealt with in the year. 33 applications for loans and 123 provisional applications were also dealt with.

A large number of informal enquiries were also answered by the staff.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Standish Street Improvement Area

During the year surveys and visits continued on the houses, within this, the towns first General Improvement Area.

In June, the Housing Act 1971 was passed by Parliament, this new legislation permitted Councils to give Improvement Grants of 75% in areas of high housing stress. This policy was soon implemented in St. Helens and quickly made its impact on the number of applications received generally, and specifically from dwellings in the General Improvement Area.

In order to give maximum publicity to the availability of these increased grants various campaigns were undertaken.

A Council owned house situated in the General Improvement Area, was improved with the aid of a grant by the addition of a kitchen extension, a bathroom and various other works of replacement and repairs.

September saw the opening of this house and over 2,500 members of the Public visited the house in three weeks and saw the types of improvements possible with the aid of a Grant. Public Health Inspectors were on duty to discuss the various aspects of procedures to obtain these grants.

This was followed in October with an exhibition held in the Town Hall when with the aid of Local and other commercial business people the assembly hall was fitted with stands and displays of bathrooms, damp-proof course materials, and a wide variety of materials and equipment needed for the improvement of houses. This exhibition, which ran for one week, was supplemented by mobile exhibition caravans provided and equipped by the Department of the Environment and the Nationalised Industries, which visited sites in different areas of the Borough displaying material, showing films and generally offering literature and advice on Improvement Grants.

All this effort and publicity was reflected in the large increase in numbers of applications for Grants.

Rent Act, 1968

The following are particulars of applications received under this Act during the year:

(1)	Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	10
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	—
(3)	Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	9
	(b) in respect of all defects	—
(4)	Number of Undertakings given by landlords	2
(5)	Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	3
(6)	Applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates	3
(7)	Objection by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	—
(8)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	3
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel Certificates in spite of objection	—

Housing Act, 1969 – Qualification Certificates

No. of applications received under Section 44 (1)	341
No. of applications received under Section 44 (2)	17
No. of applications referred back to applicants for repairs	—
No. of applications referred back to applicants for lack of amenities	42
No. of applications received with improvement grant	—
No. of certificates issued	33
No. of provisional certificates issued	—
No. of applications cancelled due to wrong submission	14

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

A total of 14,435 inspections of dwellinghouses and food premises for vermin infestation were made during the year, and the following disinfestation work was carried out:

(1)	Privately owned dwellinghouses	370
(2)	Occupied Council houses	567
(3)	Food premises and other business premises	36
(4)	Corporation buildings, other than dwellinghouses	72
(5)	Other buildings	—

Total No of premises treated: 1,045

All dwellinghouses infested with vermin are now sprayed free of charge. The service has also been extended in regard to the presence of cockroaches in that a routine follow up treatment is carried out after an interval of four months. Also if a complaint is received in respect of one house in a block, either the whole block or a number of adjacent houses are sprayed at the same time.

Nominal charges are still made in respect of business premises.

